AP

CHICAGO SPORTS

AN ANALYSIS OF HEALTH

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Deaths in Calif. attack rise to 11

Investigators search gunman's history in effort to find motive

By Amy Taxin, Stefanie Dazio and Terry Tang
Associated Press

MONTEREY PARK, Calif. — The search for the motive behind the shooting massacre that killed 11 people at a Los Angeles-area dance hall led police to a mobile home community as they probed the past of the 72-year-old suspect on Monday and his relationship to the ballroom.

Sheriff's deputies from Los Angeles County searched the home in a gated senior community where Huu Can Tran lived in the town of Hemet, an hour's drive from the scene of the crime in Monterey Park, Hemet police spokesperson Alan Reyes said.

Monterey Park police Chief Scott Wiese said he wasn't aware of the search results or if Tran, who died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, left behind any note indicating what drove him to shoot up the dance hall.

Turn to Attack, Page 9

MORE COVERAGE

More police for Chinatown parade

An increased police presence will be at Sunday's Lunar New Year Parade in Chinatown after the mass shooting in a Los Angeles-area ballroom. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Second tragedy averted: Calif. officials credit a computer coder with wresting a pistol from a gunman in the moments following Saturday night's shooting. **Nation & World**

ELECTION 2023 CHICAGO MAYOR

Mayoral candidates Mayor Lori Lightfoot, from left, U.S. Rep. Jesús "Chuy" García and Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson meet with members of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board on Monday in Chicago. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

'You brought chaos'

Lightfoot defends record against challengers García and Johnson

By Alice Yin and Gregory Pratt
Chicago Tribune

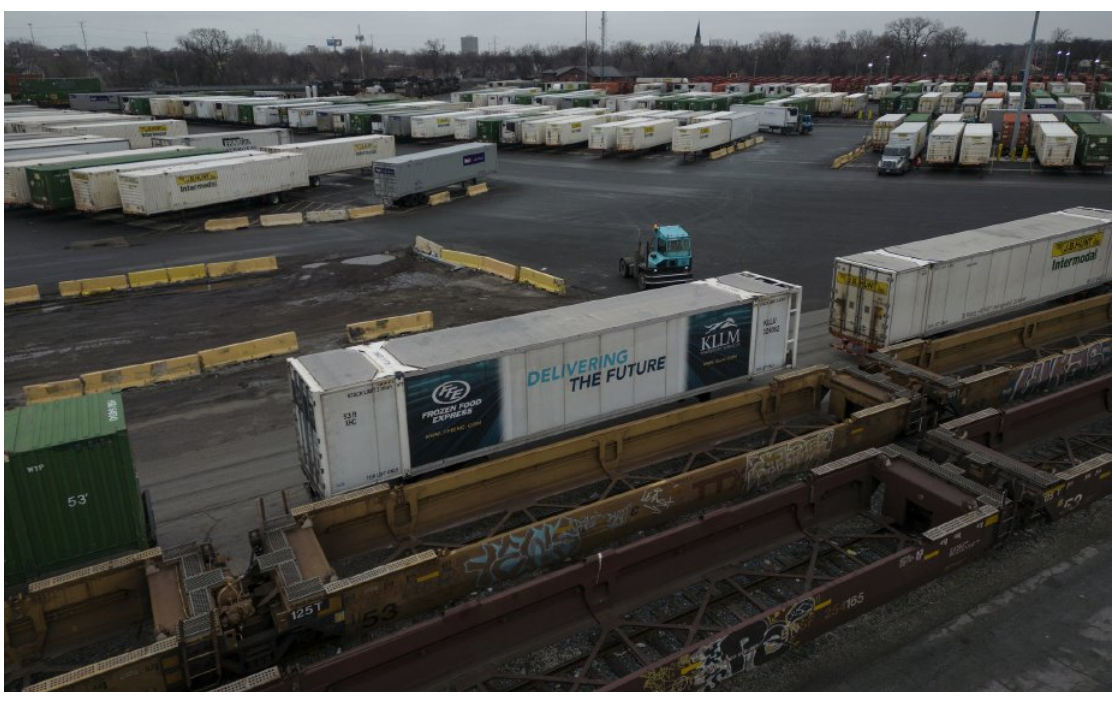
Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot launched a blistering series of attacks on two of her top challengers Monday, accusing Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson of bringing "chaos" to Chicago schools and his allies in the teachers union during her first term and re-upping claims that U.S. Rep. Jesús "Chuy" García is a false reformer whose ties to indicted former House Speaker Michael Madigan undermine his claims he'll be an independent mayor.

The challengers responded by ripping the mayor for letting crime in Chicago run rampant, breaking key campaign promises and being a belligerent and ineffective leader of the nation's third-largest city.

The rousing debate, which took place over 90 minutes at the Tribune's Editorial Board, occurred nearly five weeks from the Feb. 28 election. Lightfoot is trying to secure a second term in office while facing eight challengers following a turbulent first term that saw her have to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, sometimes violent protests, spikes in crime and, as she put it, an "economic meltdown." The other candidates in the field met last week with the board, which is separate from the newsroom.

García, making his second bid for the city's highest office, downplayed his relationship with Madigan days after the Tribune reported García is an unidentified member of Congress referenced in federal court filings detailing an alleged scheme by Madigan to appoint one of García's political associates to a lucrative position on Commonwealth Edison's board of directors. García is not accused of wrongdoing and denied playing any role in the

Turn to Mayor, Page 5



The Norfolk Southern 47th Street intermodal yard on Jan. 6. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Officials suggest building ties to areas railroads pass through

Spending more money suggested as one way to clear Chicago congestion

By John Lippert
Chicago Tribune

Alan Shaw came to Chicago last week casting himself as a reformer.

At a Midwest shippers meeting, the Norfolk Southern chief executive promised to deliver resilience and growth, and to step back from the Wall Street-inspired job cuts that helped hogtie the nation's railroads during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But Shaw had to share the spotlight with another nagging problem: the railroad's stalled campaign to double the size of what is already its biggest intermodal freight yard at 47th Street and the Dan Ryan Expressway.

An hour before he spoke Wednesday, Ald. Jeanette Taylor, 20th, blocked a City Council vote on the $150 million expansion yet again.

A day later, one of the country's most influential federal railroad regulators called out Norfolk Southern and its peers for failing to grow during the last 15 years, and thereby, allowing pollution-spewing trucks to carry more freight.

The turbulent week stands as an apt metaphor for the state of the nation's railroads, and the role

Turn to Railroads, Page 4

Alleged $1B fraud scheme reaches trial

Feds: Outcome Health founders inflated user total, then overcharged

Agarwal

Shah

By Lisa Schencker
Chicago Tribune

Much has happened in the world since two young entrepreneurs — once stars of Chicago's tech scene — were charged with criminal fraud. In recent years, many Chicagoans may have forgotten about the spectacular rise and fall of Outcome Health and its founders.

But Chicagoans are about to be reminded, in a big way. Three years after they were charged, the trial of former Outcome Health CEO Rishi Shah and former Outcome President Shradha Agarwal is set to begin this week in Chicago.

A jury will examine whether Shah, Agarwal and a third former executive, Brad Purdy, participated in an alleged $1 billion fraud scheme. Their company, Outcome Health, placed screens and tablets in doctors' offices and waiting rooms that ran educational content and pharmaceutical ads. But federal prosecutors allege that the three lied about how many doctors' offices had screens and tablets running their content. They allege that the trio then used those exaggerated numbers to overcharge drug companies for advertising and inflate revenue figures used to get loans and raise money from investors.

All three have pleaded not guilty to the charges, which include mail fraud, wire fraud and bank fraud. Some of the counts carry sentences of up to 30 years in prison. Lawyers for the three did not respond to requests for comment or declined to comment.

Turn to Trial, Page 2

TODAY'S WEATHER High **37** Low **32**

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 12

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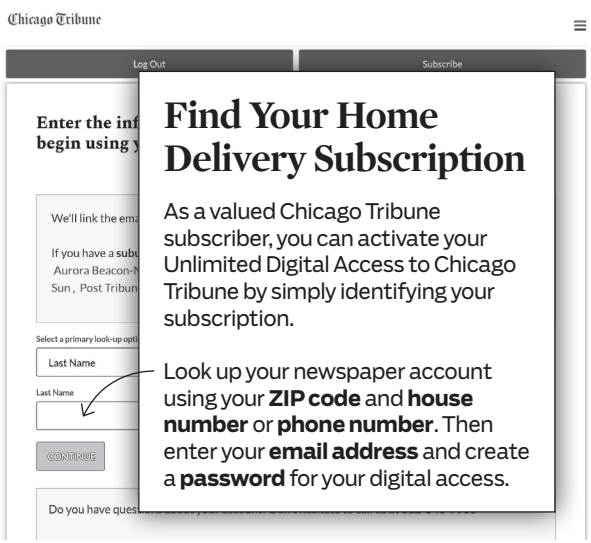
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Tribune books

"Dinner at Home" Cooking at home doesn't have to be difficult, but it should always be delicious. Since 2007, JeanMarie Brownson, culinary director for Rick Bayless' Frontera Foods, has been helping readers put inventive, yet simple, dishes on the table through her Dinner at Home column for the Tribune. Her book includes everything you need to create spectacular food any day of the week, including sample menus and recipes for everything from prosciutto Parmesan puffs to roasted chicken with tomato-olive relish. Dinner at home has never been better.

"Capone: A Photographic Portrait of America's Most Notorious Gangster." Using many never-before-published photographs and newspaper clippings from the Tribune's archives, this coffee-table book chronicles the rise and fall of Al Capone.

"Ask Amy: Advice for Better Living" For over a decade, Amy Dickinson has been the Tribune's signature general advice columnist, helping readers with questions both personal and pressing. This book, which collects columns from 2011 to 2013, is a testament to the empathetic counsel and practical common-sense tips that Dickinson has been distilling for years.

"Culture Worrier: Reflections on Race, Politics and Social Change." Clarence Page's newest book commemorates the 30th anniversary of his column's first appearance in the Tribune. It is the first such collection of the Pulitzer Prize winner's columns, covering topics such as politics, social issues, pop culture, race, family, new media and prominent figures, as well as his personal life.

"10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything." You may never need to know the human body contains a half-pound of salt, but that's just one of the obscure facts you'll find about sports, history, religion, politics, arts and culture, food and leisure, and science and technology in this collection of columns from Mark Jacob and Stephan Benzkofer.

"Life Skills: How To Do Almost Anything" How do you give a good wedding toast? How do you fix a clogged drain? How do you bowl without hurting anyone? Questions like these make up this engaging do-it-yourself guide.

Accuracy and ethics

The Tribune's editorial code of principles governs professional behavior and journalism standards. Everyone in our newsroom must agree to live up to this code of conduct. Read it at chicagotribune.com/accuracy.

Corrections and clarifications: Publishing information quickly and accurately is a central part of the Chicago Tribune's news responsibility.

■ A photo caption in Sunday's Opinion section misidentified the National Socialist Party of America. The Tribune regrets the error.

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INSIDE

Almanac	News	9	Horoscopes	Business	10
Arts & Living	Business	8	Nation & World	Business	4
Bridge	Business	10	Obituaries	News	9
Comics	Business	10-11	Sudoku	Business	11
Crossword	Business	11	Television	Business	9
Editorials	News	6	Weather	News	12

Trial

from Page 1

Jury selection is scheduled to start Tuesday, and opening arguments could happen in the following days.

The trial could last more than three months, and is expected to be complex, with thousands of exhibits, and testimony from a number of former Outcome employees.

"It's a big case. There are very significant consequences," said James Roberts, a former Manhattan assistant district attorney who now represents companies and individuals as counsel with the law firm Schlam Stone & Dolan in New York City, and is not involved in the trial. "You're talking about people who were very well-known personalities in Chicago, and it's a very serious allegation when you talk about how much money was involved."

Rishi Shah and Shradha Agarwal, of ContextMedia, which later was called Outcome Health, accept the Lighthouse Award at the ITA CityLIGHTS ceremony in 2014. **CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

A company is born

The idea for Outcome Health was hatched while Shah and Agarwal were still students at Northwestern University. Shah and another friend founded the company in 2006, calling it ContextMedia. That friend left the company after a few years, and Agarwal, who had helped early on, joined the company full time after she graduated from Northwestern in 2008.

Within a few years, the company began to blossom, growing its network of hospitals and clinics and taking on big-name clients. In 2016, the company acquired competitor Accent Health and soon after changed its name to Outcome Health.

Outcome took off like a rocket ship. It raised $487.5 million in outside funding in 2017, rising to a valuation of about $5.5 billion. Investors included a fund co-founded by Gov. J.B. Pritzker and units of Goldman Sachs and Google.

The company grew from only 35 employees to more than 600, Shah said at a 2017 news conference, where he stood alongside former Mayor Rahm Emanuel to announce that it planned to hire another 2,000 workers by 2022.

At one point, the company said it was considering an initial public offering.

Shah and Agarwal's fortunes rose with the company's. Shah, who owned 80% of Outcome, was named to the Forbes 400 ranking of richest Americans in 2017, with a net worth of $3.6 billion at the age of 31. Agarwal owned 20% of the company.

Between the $487.5 million from investors, and loans secured in 2016, the pair received more than $260 million in dividends, according to a court filing by the government.

It wasn't long, however, before it all came crashing down.

In 2017, a former Outcome analyst contacted a Wall Street Journal reporter with concerns about the way the company was doing business. In October of that year, the newspaper published an article saying that employees had misled advertising clients with manipulated information.

Shortly after the article ran, the investors who had sunk $487.5 million into the company in 2017 sued Outcome, Shah and Agarwal, alleging Outcome misled advertisers and investors about the company's performance. Pharmaceutical advertisers yanked tens of millions of dollars in ads and many health systems backed away from the company. More than one-third of the company's workforce took buyouts.

The company and its former executives faced lawsuits and investigations over the next few years.

Outcome settled the lawsuit by investors in early 2018. At that point, Shah and Agarwal stepped down from daily operations of the company, and, six months later, resigned from their board positions.

In 2019, Outcome agreed to pay $70 million to pharmaceutical companies to resolve a federal fraud investigation. As part of the agreement, Outcome admitted that from 2012 to 2017, former executives and employees "perpetrated a scheme to defraud its clients — most of which were pharmaceutical companies — by selling advertising inventory that it did not have," the Justice Department said in a news release.

The federal investigation into individual company leaders, however, was ongoing, and just a month after the $70 million settlement, Shah, Agarwal, Purdy and former executive Ashik Desai were charged with a combined 26 counts of fraud. Desai quickly pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud. Two other former analysts also pleaded guilty in a related case, admitting to participation in a conspiracy to oversell Outcome's inventory and conceal the overselling and underdelivery from clients and an auditor, according to a court filing.

Desai, then 26, had been Outcome's executive vice president of business growth and analytics.

What to expect at trial

In the upcoming trial, Desai is expected to be a star witness. Desai has not yet been sentenced, but the government is expected to recommend a reduced amount of time in prison if he cooperates and testifies truthfully.

Desai is expected to testify that Outcome told pharmaceutical company clients that it had screens in more doctors' offices than it really did and underdelivered on ad campaigns while charging clients as if it had delivered in full, according to a court filing by the government. He's also expected to testify about alleged efforts to deceive an outside auditor who examined Outcome's business, and that he repeatedly presented misleading return-on-investment results to clients.

"Desai will testify that eventually he began to alter the key numbers in the reports before the information was sent to clients," according to the filing. "He did this in order to conceal the underdeliveries from the clients, and to make it appear that Outcome had delivered in full on its ad campaigns and that the ad campaigns performed well."

Desai, who was put on leave shortly before the Wall Street Journal article was published, is expected to testify about Purdy, Agarwal and Shah's roles in the alleged scheme.

The government alleges that Shah, Agarwal and Purdy each played a "crucial role" in the fraud. Shah and Agarwal instituted the practice of sending clients "aggressive (and unrealistic) 'projections of Outcome's inventory,' ... which set in motion Outcome's inevitable and pervasive underdeliveries on clients' advertising campaigns," according to the government. They then instructed their subordinates to hide that data from Outcome's salespeople and by extension, its clients, the government alleges.

Meanwhile, Purdy was involved in supplying clients with inflated lists of doctors' offices where their advertising would run, helped inflate other numbers, knew about the underdeliveries and helped raise cash from lenders and investors based on inflated revenue numbers, the government alleges.

But in a court filing, Purdy's attorneys wrote that Purdy never thought, until shortly before the Wall Street Journal article was published, that anyone at Outcome had intentionally defrauded clients. Instead, Purdy's attorneys place the blame squarely on Desai, calling him a "master con man."

Purdy maintains that he was unaware that Desai was falsifying return-on-investment reports.

According to Purdy's filing, Outcome operated on a weighted average system, meaning it was understood that Outcome might initially underdeliver on a contract, but because the company was growing so rapidly, it would overdeliver later on, so that, on average, it would have played ads on the required number of screens over the course of a contract.

"In light of Outcome's tremendous inventory growth and the weighted average approach, Mr. Purdy always believed that Outcome could, would and did meet its inventory needs and contractual obligations," according to Purdy's court filing. "As such, there was no reason for Mr. Purdy to be alarmed or concerned when he learned from time to time ... that Outcome was underdelivering on some contracts, especially in the first half of a contract term."

A number of other former Outcome employees are also expected to testify. The government is alleging that Shah, Agarwal and Purdy repeatedly "marginalized, undermined and ignored whistleblowers who raised concerns about the fraud."

The government alleges that one executive, hired as chief operating officer in early 2017, stayed on the job for only three weeks. That executive learned of the alleged fraud and confronted Shah about it, according to the government. "Based on Shah's reaction to the issues Executive A raised, at a certain point during the meeting, Executive A decided that he no longer wanted to work at Outcome," the government wrote.

The government alleges that other employees who raised concerns also left, negotiating and signing separation agreements with Outcome. In written exit interview questionnaires, several analysts who left the company in 2016 wrote that they had ethical concerns, according to the government.

Many will be watching

During the trial, the burden will be on the government to show that Shah, Agarwal and Purdy intended to defraud the victims, Roberts said.

The government has to establish that representations made by the defendants about the business were "made with the intent to defraud as opposed to simply talking up the business," Roberts said.

"There are times when a business or someone in the business is making various statements that are, let's say optimistic, but subsequently turn out not to be able to be fulfilled, and is that, in and of itself, a crime?' " Roberts asked. "I would say the answer is not necessarily."

At the moment, the arguments already presented by the government may sound damning, but in criminal trials, such as this one, the defense doesn't typically lay out its side until after the trial begins, he said.

"The defense hasn't had their say yet, and a lot of that will remain sort of unknown until the opening statement of the defense," Roberts said.

Nationally, it's a case that could grab attention as the latest in a string of high-profile executives being held to task for alleged fraud. The fraud conviction of Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes, and legal actions surrounding the collapse of cryptocurrency exchange FTX and its founder Sam Bankman-Fried are fresh in many people's minds.

The Outcome trial is yet another reminder that "fraud, that overstating your success or earnings are not good strategies for long-term success, and that there are consequences, even criminal consequences, for that kind of bluster or dishonest optimism," said Nicola Sharpe, a professor at the University of Illinois College of Law and associate academic director of the Center for Professional Responsibility in Business and Society at the university's Gies College of Business.

Locally, many will likely watch the trial closely, given how prominent Outcome and its founders were before their downfall. In March 2021, Outcome combined with company PatientPoint to create a new firm called PatientPoint Health Technologies.

During Outcome's heyday, Shah and Agarwal were familiar faces in the local entrepreneurial community. They mentored other entrepreneurs, and Shah served on the boards of health-tech incubator Matter and tech hub 1871.

Chicago business leaders once held up the company as proof of the city's worth as a business and tech destination that could compete with East Coast cities and Silicon Valley.

Former Mayor Rahm Emanuel once called Outcome's growth "a testament to Chicago, to the culture that we're building in this city," when the company was booming.

Outcome's demise left many Chicago business and tech leaders frustrated.

"It creates jobs, it makes people realize you can build big, interesting companies in Chicago," said Ira Weiss, a clinical professor at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, of when companies like Outcome succeed in Chicago. "With Outcome, it was very disappointing the way it played out for local people like myself who care a lot about the local entrepreneurial ecosystem."

CHICAGOLAND

Tommy Wong, center, of the Hui-Ting Association, helps Kenmond Xavier Eng, 5, left, and Aryanna Eng, 6, present a gift to the lions along South Wentworth Avenue in Chinatown in 2021 to celebrate the Lunar New Year. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Police 'aware and alert' for Lunar New Year

Chicago 'strengthening security' for celebrations in Chinatown following mass shooting in Calif.

By Richard Requena and Paige Fry
Chicago Tribune

There will be an increased police presence at Sunday's Lunar New Year Parade in Chinatown, Chicago police announced Monday, after a mass shooting left 11 people dead in a Los Angeles-area ballroom Saturday amid a weekend of new year's celebrations.

"While there is no actionable intelligence in Chicago, we are strengthening security for Lunar New Year celebrations in the upcoming days by increasing our visibility and presence at these events," Chicago police said in a statement.

Parade organizers said safety is always on the top of their list. Gene Lee, founder of Chicago Chinatown Special Events Committee and organizer of the event, said police told him they would be on high alert Sunday, but he said "unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be the positions of the United States as of lately."

Lee also said the organizers have hired additional security. "I wouldn't say we are pins and needles, but we're all very much aware and alert," Lee said.

Sunday's parade marks the first time the Lunar New Year Parade has been held since the COVID-19 pandemic hit Chicago. It starts at 1 p.m. and will take off from 24th Street and Wentworth Avenue and travel north on Wentworth toward the viewing stand on Cermak Street and Wentworth.

Ald. Sigcho-Lopez, 25th, said he talked with community leaders over the weekend about their safety concerns. He said community members were able to collaborate on a safety plan with their aldermen and police precinct.

"We feel confident with our safety plan, and to move forward with this joyful event in a safe environment. We invite the whole city to come out," said Sigcho-Lopez.

Ald. Nicole Lee, 11th, said in a written statement, "The safety of our community is my top priority and it's my job as alderman to ensure we are using available resources, and demanding more when needed, to keep our community safe everyday. We deserve to enjoy this celebration of our culture and community, and we will do so with pride, just as we have for generations."

Lunar New Year celebrations kicked off in Chicago over the weekend, but celebrators said they refused to live in fear after a gunman killed 11 and injured nine others in Monterey Park, California, on Saturday night. Police have not released a motive. The suspected shooter was found dead by police in a white van in nearby Torrance a day later.

Anti-Asian hate crimes have gone up fivefold in the last three years, according to Chicago police data.

Ethics board escalates investigation of Lightfoot campaign's CPS contacts

By A.D. Quig
Chicago Tribune

The Chicago Board of Ethics decided Monday more thorough investigations needed to be done before rendering judgment about whether Mayor Lori Lightfoot's campaign violated local ethics rules when it solicited Chicago public school teachers to encourage students to help her reelection efforts.

The board tasked the inspectors general for both City Hall and Chicago Public Schools to conduct investigations into the matter, even though both offices were already aware of or probing the matter.

Given how long such investigations and rulings on those probes take, it seems unlikely there will be an answer before the Feb. 28 election. Early voting begins Thursday.

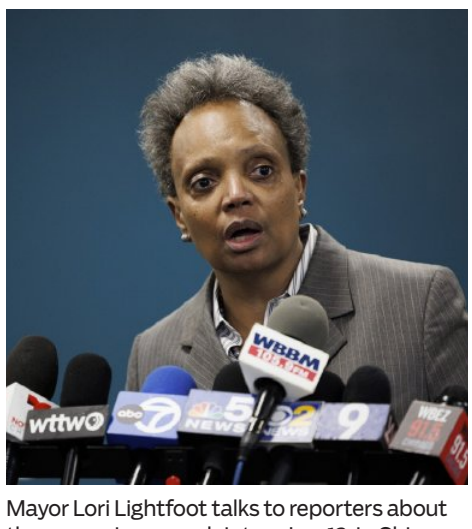
The mayor landed in hot water earlier this month when it was discovered a deputy on her campaign emailed CPS teachers to recruit their students for Lightfoot's reelection effort, and offered class credit in exchange.

Lightfoot's mayoral challengers pounced, decrying the practice as improper and unethical.

The Chicago Teachers Union — which endorsed Lightfoot challenger Brandon Johnson — said in a letter that it was concerned members who declined to help Lightfoot's campaign could face retaliation.

"This is the same mayor who promised to clean up corruption and make good ethics an anchor in her administration," the letter said.

A day after the dust-up, Lightfoot apologized at a news conference, repeatedly saying she was unaware her campaign



Mayor Lori Lightfoot talks to reporters about the campaign complaint on Jan. 12, in Chicago. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

was contacting CPS teachers and saying the outreach was a mistake made by a staff member. Her campaign, after initially defending the practice, eventually vowed to stop and said it had reminded campaign staff "about the solid wall that must exist between campaign and official activities and that contacts with any city of Chicago, or other sister agency employees, including CPS employees ... is off limits. Period."

The city's ethics board met Monday afternoon to consider the issue, though neither the board agenda nor members made any mention of the campaign or the mayor directly. Board policy is to keep names and titles confidential unless a violation is found.

But it was clear the potential violation was up for discussion: the board had previously announced it would consider the matter, and the city's inspector general, Deborah Witzburg, was in attendance as were ethics officials from Chicago Public Schools and Chicago City Colleges, where student volunteers were also solicited by Lightfoot's campaign.

During the meeting, ethics board chair William Conlon also recommended candidates for elected city offices "immediately and thoroughly scrub their email lists and remove any governmental email addresses. The board also advises candidates and those associated with those candidates that emails and other forms of solicitation may be considered coercive if directed to city employees or those employed by sister city agencies."

It was unlikely the ethics board was going to rule Monday. The board can only adjudicate and settle cases involving alleged violations of city ethics rules when all the facts are known or when a violation is clear. Even then, ethics board adjudication can take weeks or months to conclude.

When the facts are unclear, the board can refer complaints to inspectors general, which is what the board did in this case. Conlon sent the potential "unauthorized use of real or personal city property" violation to Witzburg and the Chicago Public Schools inspector general's office, which had already announced it was investigating the matter.

Both watchdogs were tasked with conducting "factual investigations and report(ing) back to the board," Conlon said, adding that the board had "absolute confidence the inspector general's office will conduct a thorough, aggressive, and complete and fair-minded investigation."

aquig@chicagotribune.com

Man gets 4 years for role in killing of Ochoa-Lopez

Boyfriend of woman accused of strangling her, cutting baby out of womb

By Madeline Buckley
Chicago Tribune

The boyfriend of a woman who is accused, along with her daughter, of strangling 19-year-old Marlen Ochoa-Lopez and cutting her baby out of her womb was sentenced on Monday to four years in prison for his role in the 2019 case that shocked the nation.

Piotr Bobak, 44, pleaded guilty on Monday to a felony count of obstruction of justice and elected to proceed straight to sentencing. He was originally charged with felony counts of concealment of a homicide, concealment of a death and obstruction of justice.

Ochoa-Lopez

"Not a day goes by that I do not regret my involvement in this horrible crime," Bobak said during the hearing at the Leighton Criminal Court Building.

Cook County Judge Peggy Chiampas handed down the sentence, choosing to abide by the terms of the plea agreement. Because of day-for-day credit and time already served awaiting trial, Bobak likely has less than four months left to serve, Chiampas noted.

Bobak was the boyfriend of Clarisa Figueroa, who, along with her daughter, Desiree, is accused of hatching a plan to kill Ochoa, steal the baby she was carrying and pass the boy off as the elder Figueroa's son. Ochoa-Lopez's son, Yovani Yadiel Lopez, died at a hospital in June 2019 at the age of seven weeks. The two women are charged with murder and other felonies in the slaying.

During his hearing, Bobak said he had no prior knowledge of what the women planned to do, but used "poor judgment" after the fact when cleaning up the crime scene.

"If I had known about the actions ... I would have done everything I could to prevent it," Bobak said.

He wore glasses and an orange jumpsuit, and appeared emotional when speaking about the attack.

His attorney, Jeff Steinback, said Bobak desperately sought a family and a child of his own, and therefore, was the "perfect dupe" for Clarisa Figueroa, who pretended to be pregnant with Bobak's child.

"He believed that child was his child," Steinback said.

Ochoa-Lopez was nine months' pregnant when she disappeared, last seen on April 23, 2019, leaving her high school in the Little Village neighborhood.

The Figueroas lured the young mother to their home on Chicago's Southwest Side that day with promises of free baby clothes, prosecutors alleged. Clarisa Figueroa strangled the teen with a cable, according to prosecutors, and sliced open her abdomen from side to side, removed the baby from the womb and placed him inside a bucket.

The elder Figueroa then called 911 and announced that on her own she had delivered a baby who was not breathing, prosecutors said. As paramedics arrived, she was holding the baby with its placenta and umbilical cord attached. Both were rushed to Advocate Christ Medical Center.

About two weeks after Ochoa-Lopez was last seen, detectives investigating her disappearance learned the teen had gone to the Figueroa home the day she disappeared. They went to the home and were told by Desiree Figueroa that her mother had recently had a baby. They found Ochoa-Lopez's car parked nearby.

Detectives visited Clarisa Figueroa at the hospital, but she denied that the teen came to her home the day she disappeared. Police eventually used DNA to determine Clarisa Figueroa was not the baby's mother.

When detectives arrived to search the Figueroa home, Bobak was outside cleaning a rug with bleach and a hose, prosecutors said during a bond hearing in 2019. When Bobak saw the officers, he dropped the bleach and hose, and walked away, they said.

Ochoa-Lopez's decaying body was found in a garbage can outside the Figueroa home Tuesday with the coaxial cables used to strangle her still around her neck, prosecutors said.

At Monday's hearing, Assistant State's Attorney Andrew Varga said Bobak "knowingly" began to clean the premises and remove items when officers served a search warrant on May 14, 2019. Varga, though, said Bobak was "intentionally misled" by Clarisa Figueroa about the baby.

Family members of Ochoa-Lopez were not in court on Monday, but were aware of the plea deal, prosecutors said.

"I'm so sorry for the loss the family has experienced," Bobak said. "I regret every minute."

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UIC faculty and administration reach deal

Classes resume after 4-day strike, 9-hour session

By Zareen Syed
Chicago Tribune

Strike signs are hauled away on Monday at the University of Illinois at Chicago campus following the tentative agreement. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

After a nine-hour bargaining session Sunday — and months of negotiations — the University of Illinois at Chicago administration reached a tentative agreement with faculty and staff who had been on strike since Tuesday.

UIC United Faculty, the union representing 1,500 tenure and nontenure faculty at UIC, has been bargaining since April for a new contract that ensures increased pay, more funding for student services and job security, and had worked without a contract since Aug. 16.

After the union failed to reach an agreement during a marathon bargaining session on Jan. 16, union members headed to the picket lines Tuesday alongside students and organizers.

In November, 77% of their nearly 900 members voted in support of a strike.

Charitianne Williams, the UICUF's communications chair and an English lecturer at the school, said the bargaining session ended late Sunday.

"We're very, very happy with the contract," she said. "I got home a little around 1 a.m. I haven't stayed up that late since I was in my 20s."

The final breakthrough came when both sides were hammering out the details of financial issues, she said.

"We had to do some trading to get that done, but we're finally able to hit that $60,000 minimum for nontenure track, which was a real benchmark for us," Williams said. "At one point we had 170 faculty observers in on the Zoom just listening in. The whole room just erupted as soon as we realized we had gotten what our membership needed."

In a statement, UIC officials said, "This is the end of a long negotiation process. The parties were able to find common ground on an overall contract that addresses various faculty concerns and bridges the gap in compensation offers."

Classes resumed Monday.

"Some of my colleagues on the bargaining team had class at 9:30 this morning; they were really happy to be back in the classroom," Williams said.

Along with increasing minimum wage salaries for the lowest paid faculty, the new contract also provides stronger job protection for nontenure-track faculty, expands nondiscrimination and anti-harassment policies and promises a more robust system to deal with mental health issues with the same access to psychological and neuropsychological assessments for their students that the University of Illinois already provides to students at the Urbana-Champaign campus.

Last spring, UICUF sent a survey to its members to gauge which issues needed to be addressed at the bargaining table.

"Very, very, very quickly, student mental health emerged as the faculty's No. 1 noneconomic workplace concern," Williams said.

She noted that several faculty members spent an average of four to six hours per week talking to students about nonacademic issues over the last two years.

Last week, UIC's administration announced that it would commit $4.47 million over the next six years to address student mental health and well-being.

According to university officials, funding will allow for increased staffing for the counseling center including licensed therapists and psychiatrists, and salary enhancements to recruit and retain staff. A social work trainee field unit is also on the docket, as well as the opening of a wellness drop-in space on the west side of campus.

Aaron Krall, UICUF president, said the key to getting over the finish line was the union's strength in numbers.

Between 200 and 300 organizers showed up daily to protests that started Tuesday and lasted until Friday.

"I'm really proud of my team and all our members for coming out for the strike last week," Krall said. "We formed our union with the goal of making UIC better. And sometimes they've been a willing partner in that and sometimes we've had to drag them along."

The final part of bargaining is bringing the agreed-upon terms back to the members for a vote, which Krall estimates will wrap up in the next couple of weeks. After that, the contract will get signed and sealed and things will start to go into effect immediately, Krall said.

The contract expires in August 2026.

"(I am) completely exhausted but at the same time, happy to get back into my work email and get back in touch with my students; it's kind of exhausting and energizing at the same time," said Krall, who teaches English and modern and contemporary drama.

"We talked about how this might go before the strike and everybody was a little anxious about it but definitely excited to get back to the real work we're trying to accomplish at UIC," he said.

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Railroads

from Page 1

of Chicago and its suburbs as the biggest freight hub. They're key battlegrounds as the U.S. struggles to decide what sustainable growth means, and whether it's possible.

"This has been a theme forever and ever," said Tracy Robinson, chief executive of Canadian National Railway. "The railroads come into an area, and the community builds up around them, and then we have trouble living together."

Robinson spoke at the shippers conference in the west suburb of Lombard, where she described the Chicago area as "the center of railroading."

Norfolk Southern portrays the expansion of its 170-year-old Englewood yard as a badly needed infusion of jobs and investment in inner-city Chicago.

But by demolishing hundreds of homes, and subjecting people who remain to a rising tide of congestion and truck pollution, the railroad sparked protests, lawsuits and bruised feelings.

Taylor said she expects an agreement will be reached with Norfolk Southern and the vote to proceed when the City Council meets Feb. 1, just weeks before Chicago elects a new mayor and City Council.

"This is a $59 billion company," Taylor said, referring to the value of the railroad's stock. "They displaced 400 families. The community has a right to say they want access to those jobs, and to be able to get those contracts, and I'm gonna make sure that happens."

Norfolk Southern began buying property for the expansion soon after the 2008 financial collapse.

The 15-year saga raises ongoing questions about whether the railroads will be able to expand in communities where they operate now, and know how to, even if they break with the cost-cutting ethos on Wall Street.

For Marty Oberman, chairman of the federal Surface Transportation Board, the key to unlocking Chicago congestion is money. He said the railroads — at a time of soaring profits — just don't spend enough.

A former Chicago alderman and Metra chairman, Oberman said the city took an important step in 2003 by organizing a public-private partnership called CREATE (Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program) to address congestion.

The group is spending $380 million for a bridge near 75th Street and Damen Avenue in West Englewood so dozens of daily Metra and freight trains, along with cars, trucks and pedestrians, don't have to take turns before passing through.

After nearly two decades ending in 2021, CREATE had raised $1.6 billion of the $4.6 billion it needs to complete 70 targeted projects. The railroads contributed just a quarter of the amount raised, Oberman said. The rest came from federal, state and city funds.

"As a taxpayer, I find this frustrating," Oberman said in an interview. "These projects benefit the public but they also definitely benefit the railroads. So they can and should be contributing a larger share."

Shaw's newfound reticence about cutting jobs may sound like common sense to many people. But when he presented this idea to investors last month, Trains magazine columnist Bill Stephens wrote that he deserved a standing ovation.

That's because, for the last decade, the strategic thinking of U.S. railroads has been dominated by a concept called "precision scheduled railroading."

This approach means driving operating costs as a percentage of revenue as low as possible.

The seven big railroads in the U.S. cut 29,000 jobs, or about a fifth of their workforce, between January 2016 and February of 2020, according to a speech by Oberman in November.

This was just before COVID-19 created chaos in global supply chains. The railroads kept cutting even then. By the end of 2021, they eliminated another 13,271 jobs, Oberman said.

This second tranche of cuts saved about $4.8 billion in labor costs. But as they were occurring, during the height of the pandemic, the railroads spent nearly $60 billion on share buybacks and dividends, Oberman said.

In the meantime, he said, their service was "falling off a cliff."

Oberman used one main measure of the service crisis in his speech. In what are known as "embargoes," railroads can decide — often at the last minute — to withhold service to specific customers for a period of days or weeks.

Alan Shaw, president & CEO of Norfolk Southern, is shown Wednesday at the Midwest Association of Rail Shippers. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

These are mostly aimed at small- and mid-size shippers, not at industry giants such as J.B. Hunt and Hub Group, which in turn cater to big retailers such as Walmart.

The railroads announced 140 embargoes in 2017, Oberman said. In the first nine months of 2022, they declared 1,115.

The situation got so bad that in June, Oberman and the transportation board ordered Union Pacific to run grain trains to one of the West Coast's biggest poultry producers. Foster Farms, based in Livingston, California, was on the verge of euthanizing millions of starving chickens.

It wasn't just chickens that suffered, Oberman said. The U.S. may have lost out on hundreds of billions of dollars in economic activity, he said, adding that it's hard to be precise.

And because container shipments over 500 miles were growing 20% faster on trucks than on railroads, many additional tons of carbon dioxide were released into the atmosphere, Oberman said.

Oberman said he's contemplating tighter regulatory controls on embargoes, especially when they result from excessive job cuts.

But he also acknowledged a recent "evolution" on Wall Street, one that provides more support for long-term investments in railroad labor and equipment.

He said he's encouraged by Shaw's promise to not be so quick to lay off workers when sales slump.

He praised chief executives at BNSF, CSX and Canadian National for making similar statements. He hasn't heard the same, he said, from Union Pacific.

In his December speech, Shaw reassured Wall Street that Norfolk Southern has plenty of thrift left in its corporate DNA.

He also tried to convince investors that job cuts can be penny-wise and pound-foolish.

Shaw offered this example: The railroad could save about $35 million a year by cutting 5% of its engineers and conductors when sales slump. But lately, he said, only 45% of furloughed workers return when the economy improves.

At that point, Shaw said, Norfolk Southern would have to spend $10 million to recruit and train replacements. The railroad could also incur $760 million a year in elevated operating costs and missed revenue opportunities, he said. "For us, resilience is an investment in long-term shareholder value," Shaw said.

But being rooted in dense population centers on the East Coast and in Chicago means it's hard for the railroad to enlarge its physical footprint.

Even though Norfolk Southern started buying property for the 47th Street expansion 15 years ago, the railroad didn't remove the final homeowner — through a court-sanctioned eviction — until 2021.

And then Taylor, the area's alderman, blocked a City Council vote on the expansion for six months starting last year.

Taylor said it's unacceptable that, according to Norfolk Southern, only five employees hired since 2014 from five South Side ZIP codes remained actively employed in November.

This doesn't include workers hired before then, said Connor Spielmaker, a Norfolk Southern spokesman. It doesn't include contractors or truck drivers.

In some rail yards, contractors outnumber direct railroad employees by an estimated 3-to-1 ratio, said Jason Hilsenbeck, president of LoadMatch.com, a Naperville company that helps drivers find freight to haul.

Hundreds of truck drivers also enter big yards like 47th Street each day, and in Chicago, many of these are Black and brown residents of nearby communities, he said.

Spielmaker told the Tribune in a statement that Norfolk Southern "has publicly, through multiple public meetings in addition to comments published in your newspaper, affirmed our commitment to hiring diverse contractors for construction of this project in addition to the additional jobs it will bring upon completion."

The expansion will generate $85 million in contracting opportunities, Spielmaker said. But the railroad can't open the bidding, he added, until the city approves the transfer of the streets and alleys needed for the expansion.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot supports the expansion, saying that after decades of industrial job loss, the city can help its remaining businesses by providing land at reduced cost.

The Chicago region already faces the worst traffic congestion in the country, according to Inrix, a Seattle firm that specializes in analyzing traffic data.

It's into this congestion that the seven big railroads in the U.S. are all expanding their Chicago-area intermodal yards.

Union Pacific is doubling the size of its terminal in Joliet, and in response, the city's warehouse-friendly City Council may impose a container tax, according to a Herald-News report.

In the west suburbs, Elgin and other cities are fighting a proposed merger between Kansas City Southern and Canadian Pacific. The merger will send a dozen freight trains through Elgin each day, up from the current three, and double their lengths to 12,000 feet, according to Mayor Dave Kaptain. This is in addition to 40 passenger trains a day.

Because of the increase, Elgin is studying how to eliminate street-level intersections that cars, trucks and trains must share.

One option is a mile-and-a-half railroad bridge passing through the center of town and costing $1 billion. That's far more, he said, than the $10 million in compensation the railroads have offered Elgin and seven nearby communities.

"I had a politician tell me the merger will be good for the economy," Kaptain said. "But the railroads won't be stopping here even to buy a doughnut."

Anthony Hatch, an independent Wall Street analyst, said investors were focused mainly on job cuts five years ago. Today, he said, they're more inclined to support Shaw and other executives promoting growth.

As for Chicago, he said residents need to accept the pain as well as the benefits of living in the nation's freight hub. He said these include jobs and the fact that, when crossing open farmland, trains burn about a third as much fuel per ton of freight as trucks.

"Intermodal trains are great for the country, for the environment, and for our tax base," Hatch said. "But the node, the hub, will see more traffic.

"If Chicago is not congested, it means there's a problem in the economy. It means nobody is making anything anywhere."

Chicago Tribune's Alice Yin contributed.

Mayor

from Page 1

push by Madigan to appoint Juan Ochoa to the utility's board.

In response to a question about his ties to the former speaker, García invoked the earliest days of his political career in the 1980s, working with the city's first Black mayor, Harold Washington, against a coalition of mostly white City Council members who opposed him and allied with the historic Chicago machine.

"Let me remind you and everyone in the room that there isn't another elected official in office today who's been fighting the machine as long as I have," García said. He added that anyone with pending legislation in Springfield over the past few decades had to work with the former speaker, who famously held tight control over the Statehouse.

"Just because you swim with sharks, if you listen to the people that sent you somewhere, you don't become one," García said. "And that's been my mantra."

That answer did not satisfy Lightfoot, who quipped, "Clearly what (García) decided after losing in 2015 is, 'If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.' And he's made deal after deal after deal."

Lightfoot also clashed sharply with Johnson, a longtime leader with the Chicago Teachers Union, over education. She blamed the influential union for drops in Chicago Public Schools student enrollment, which she said have been exacerbated by several work stoppages during her time in office. She said she's "talked to a lot of parents" who cite uncertainty caused by union actions as the reason they left the district for the suburbs or private schools. "That hurts CPS."

Johnson responded later by noting the mayor broke a 2019 campaign promise for an elected school board governing CPS after she opposed the prevailing bill in Springfield in 2021, saying it was unwieldy. Lightfoot campaigned in support of an elected school board but quietly abandoned the promise when she took office.

"The fact of the matter is that we brought democracy to the city of Chicago," Johnson said.

Lightfoot scoffed and retorted, "You brought chaos."

For his part, García argued that Chicago — and its public school enrollment — has been shrinking due to crime fears and vowing to get Springfield to double CPS' funding if elected.

"You need someone who has those relationships, who understands how those relationships function, that can deliver for Chicago," García said. "That's why I continue to insist I am the most qualified person to lead the city in this time."

Lightfoot also went on the offensive after Johnson and García criticized her approach to leading the Police Department during a time of heightened crime as well as under the existence of a consent decree. She promised full compliance with the consent decree in the next four years and said Johnson "has no idea about what's going on" there. She called García "the OG" supporter of defunding the police and said it's something she "will never" do.

García said he has a list of congressional bills he voted on that increased law enforcement funding.

Lightfoot brought a printout of Johnson quotes speaking in favor of reallocating spending on law enforcement to argue that he is a "defunder."

During his first term as Cook County commissioner, Johnson was lead sponsor of a symbolic resolution that called for divesting funds from policing and jails in the wake of George Floyd's murder by Minneapolis police. But the sheriff's budget only saw a modest and temporary cut amid a steep budget shortfall that saw shrinkages across county offices.

Lightfoot also made a small cut to the Police Department's budget in 2020 that led some critics to accuse her of defunding.

In response to the "defund" criticism, Johnson noted that the city spends far more on policing than education and that approach isn't working.

"We spend more on jails and incarceration than we do on educating young people," Johnson said.

Johnson also went after García, describing him as an absentee politician who did not speak out on various issues in Latino neighborhoods, such as General Iron's attempted move to the Southeast Side or the Hilco explosion in Little Village.

"He's referring to her," García said, nodding to Lightfoot, as Johnson repeated that Chicagoans "didn't hear his voice" on those issues.

"Her has a name," Lightfoot shot back.

The session kicked off with Lightfoot making no apologies when asked about criticism from her challengers that she was too antagonistic.

"Look, I'm tough. There's no if ands or buts about it," Lightfoot said. "And I think the people of the city voted for me to be the mayor, different than any other mayor that's ever sat in the fifth floor, because of that toughness, but also because of the integrity that I bring to the job because of my focus on breaking up the status quo."

Lightfoot also tried to tamp down insinuations that she can't get along with others by saying she could not have closed major budget deficits during the pandemic without working relationships in City Council and beyond.

The mayor later said she could "write a Ph.D. thesis on crisis management" and "collaboration" after the storm of nationwide crises that colored her first term. But she wouldn't promise a brand-new Lightfoot leading City Hall should she win reelection. "I'm 60 years old," Lightfoot said. "I'm not going to change my personality entirely at this age."

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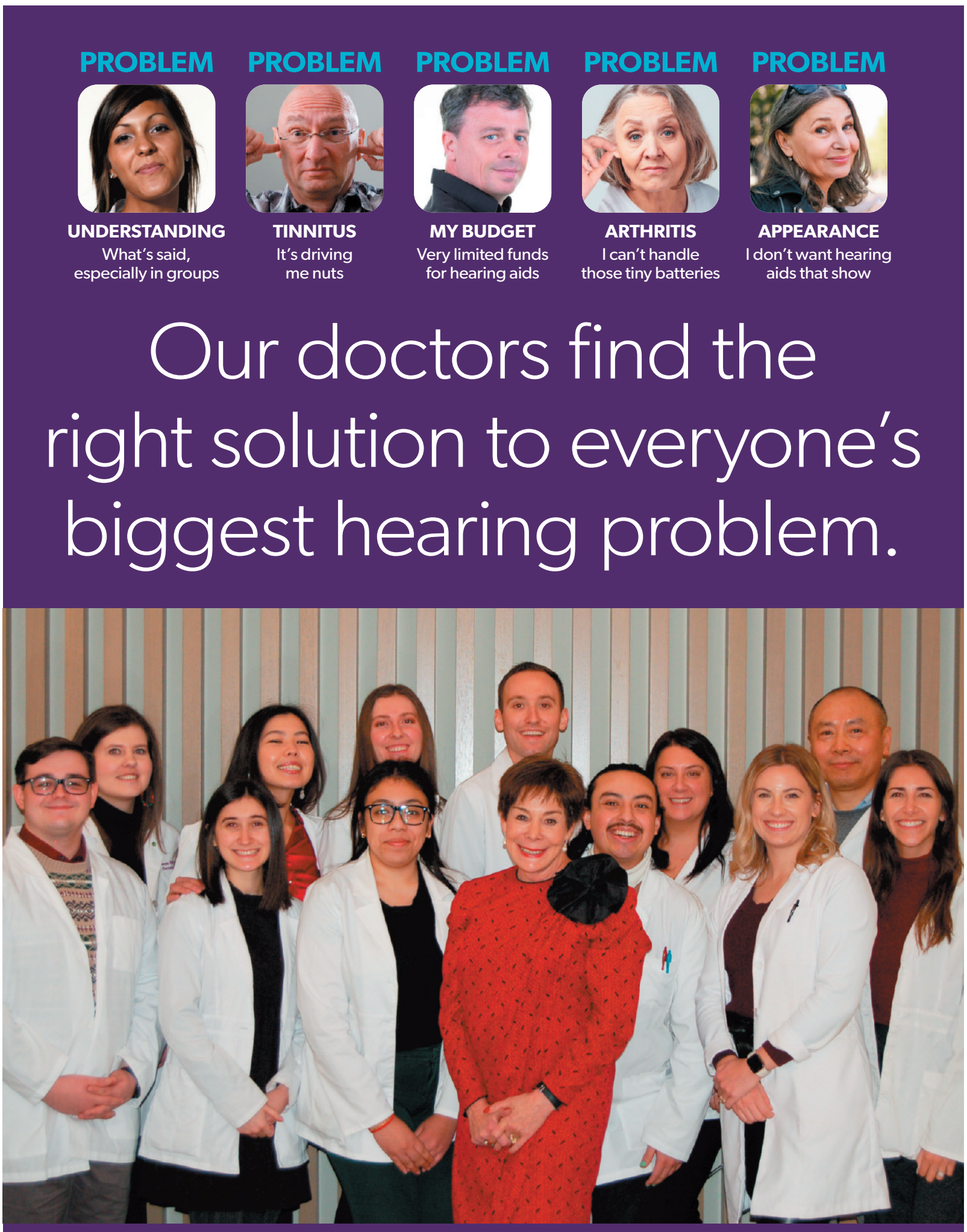
Mayor Lori Lightfoot meets with the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board on Monday. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/ CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



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EDITORIALS

Brehmer, a Chicago poet and shockingly nice jock

Radio personalities are supposed to be abrasive and controversial. Not so Lin Brehmer of WXRT-FM, whose death at 68 years old this past weekend saddened his regular listeners, many of whom felt like they had lost the most simpatico of friends.

That sense of sudden loss, even though Brehmer had been public about his prostate cancer, was also true of many Chicagoans who did not regularly tune in. Brehmer's intersecting spheres of interest and influence included the Cubs, City Hall and the Goodman Theatre, a combo that tells you a lot about his cultural centrality.

In Chicago, media personalities become our celebrities and this particular one, in this particular patch, was everyone's pal. He was mourned at the Metro, by Wilco, at the Art Institute of Chicago and by the Candelite tavern on Western Avenue. He was at ease with all of them.

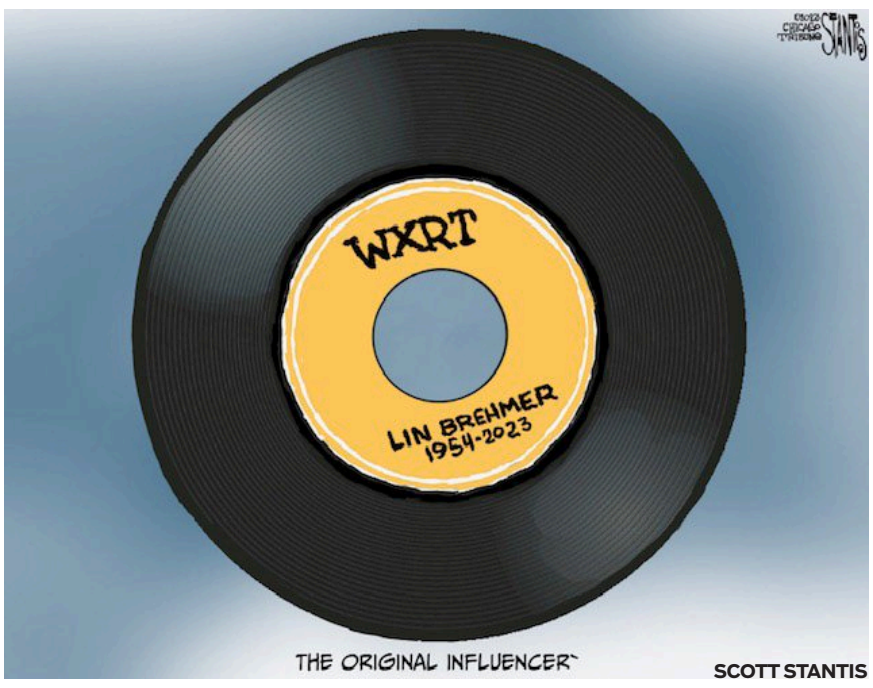
Brehmer had long established himself as a feeling and thinking Chicagoan, an anachronistic anomaly in this era of preprogrammed playlists targeted to a stultified digital demographic. Brehmer just played the music he wanted, that his listeners wanted and to heck with the bosses and their data.

He had the soundest of aesthetic judgments about his form. But the real secret to his success was an uncanny ability to match his favorite music to the events and feelings of a Chicago day.

He had a keen news sense combined with the kind of gentle, reasoned, moderate voice that made him indispensable in pretty much every corner of our otherwise fractured city. Most of our most loved writers and talkers (Roger Ebert, Mike Royko, Oprah Winfrey) have been emotional softies at their core. Brehmer sure fit that description. He could yak hard rock but he was as soft as an Italian beef bun, and as well-preserved to boot.

We are happy that Brehmer had a renaissance this past fall, getting out and about to see friends and fans, dancing, spinning records again, offering a few pithy bon mots on Twitter. And we're sad it didn't last for a much longer spin.

Fare forward, Mr. Brehmer.



Gov. J.B. Pritzker arrives to take the oath of office on Jan. 9 during the inauguration ceremony at the Bank of Springfield Center in Springfield. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

A week's paid leave? What took Ill. so long?

Gov. J.B. Pritzker says he intends to sign a bill, passed by Illinois' Democratic-controlled General Assembly, that would require employers to offer an hour of paid leave for every 40 hours worked, allowing employees to accrue and bank at least five days a year. The measure would take effect Jan. 1.

What reasonable argument could be constructed against this humble and humane provision? We can't think of one.

The U.S. is an outlier among developed countries when it comes to mandating at least some paid time off. That means the lowliest workers, those with the least ability to bargain for better, are the most vulnerable to getting no leave at all, whether it be for vacation, illness or to care for a family member, either ailing or newly arrived. The vast majority of legally employed Illinoisans already enjoy much better leave policies, of course, as voluntarily provided. But it's not true of everyone.

We understand that many Illinois businesses believe that Springfield has created a whole barrage of legislation and red tape designed to increase their costs of doing business and make it harder to thrive here. So stipulated.

But this particular bill doesn't fall into that category and, we believe, will actually incentivize employees to stay in their positions.

If you need time off for a personal emergency, and you have no leave accrued, what is your most likely recourse? You quit. But if your employer is giving you a few paid days, say, to schedule a surgery that needs doing, then not only are you going to feel better about where you work but you are more likely to stick around to enjoy the benefit.

The pandemic taught us all that a sick employee showing up for work instead of losing money can end up putting colleagues at risk, leading to entire teams falling ill, causing chaos in the workplace. And since most employers are doing better than this already, the cost of a week's paid leave should be manageable.

That's likely why the Illinois Manufacturers' Association is not opposing this bill. Earlier in the process, the bill looked set to be overambitious and excessively difficult for businesses.

For example, there initially was a plan to piggyback the proposed state requirement on top of existing mandates from individual municipalities for paid leave. That would have been a reach and against the spirit of this bill, which is to say that at least a week's paid leave each year to deal with life is reasonable enough and undeniably fair for all workers. If you're getting it elsewhere, that's great.

Given the brevity of this leave, as proposed, it makes sense to keep it simple and let employees use it to recharge their batteries, or to get well, or to look after a loved one, and to make their own choice. We think that will be good for Illinois business in the long run.

A week's paid leave for all Illinoisans, at a minimum, is what Pritzker is being asked to sign. And sign he should.

ABOUT ACADEMIC FREEDOM

As a wronged lecturer sues a small Minnesota liberal arts college, the school's leaders have at long last admitted: "sometimes we misstep." By that, they mean that they shouldn't have branded an art history instructor's actions "Islamophobic" when she dared to show a 14th-century image of the Prophet Muhammad. Adjunct Professor Erika López Prater's decision to introduce the image to her class (only after her repeated warnings that images of holy figures would be shown) upset some students, ultimately leading to López Prater losing her job.

The very limited apology is welcome, given that Hamline University had previously hunkered down and denied any errors in its treatment of a faculty member. They didn't abridge academic freedom, they insist — they merely weighed it alongside other concerns. But when an art historian cannot respectfully display and discuss actual depictions of Buddha and Muhammad in a course without unleashing holy hell, academic freedom is not merely being put in context; it is being blatantly overridden. It is not just the eggshells of liberal or progressive sensitivities on which far too many instructors are now forced to walk as they do the necessary work of educating young people in complicated and often controversial ideas. In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis' so-called Stop W.O.K.E. Act is a state statute designed to, among other things, intimidate professors at public universities from broaching certain subjects. ...

Social justice warriors want to stop professors from stepping over do-not-cross lines they've drawn in almost every subject area. Conservative culture warriors want to stop professors from being woke. Both must stand down, and those who believe in virtually unfettered campus speech rights must finally and consistently stand up.

New York Daily News Editorial Board

OPINION

A Leopard 2 battle tank is on display at a factory in Munich in 2022. Ukraine is pleading for more tanks and air defense missiles. **FELIX SCHMITT/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Russia as a democracy? Such a transition is extremely rare

By Daniel Depetris

Will Germany send its coveted Leopard 2 battle tanks to Ukraine, or at the very least give other countries like Poland the green light to send theirs? This is the question that lingered over recent discussions at the U.S. Air Force base in Ramstein, Germany, where countries supporting Kyiv's war effort came together to pledge additional military assistance. With Russian forces supposedly two months away from launching another offensive, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been spending his days lobbying Western capitals for as much armor as the Ukrainian army can handle.

Yet amid the heated conversations about specific weapons systems, there is a more important subject that is getting short shrift: What does "winning" in Ukraine actually look like for Kyiv and its backers in the West?

The question would seem to have an obvious answer: a free, sovereign Ukraine that has control over its territory and can make its own foreign policy decisions without undue influence from Moscow. But some very high-profile members of the Russian diaspora are thinking bigger: Winning not only means a humiliating Russian defeat on the battlefield but also the downfall of Vladimir Putin's regime and Russia's transition to a respectful, enlightened democracy.

In a Friday essay for Foreign Affairs, Garry Kasparov and Mikhail Khodorkovsky write that a post-Putin Russia is something the West should aspire to. (Kasparov is the chair of the Human Rights Foundation and a chess champion, and Khodorkovsky is a former oil executive who was forced into exile after serving a decadelong prison sentence.) The two Russians outline a preliminary plan for a post-Putin political transition, including the election of a constituent assembly to write a new constitution, the establishment of a state council with legislative responsibilities and the dissolution of Putin's security apparatus.

Kasparov and Khodorkovsky aren't the only ones making this argument. Lech Walesa, Poland's first democratically elected president since the 1920s and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, believes the best way to ensure Russia doesn't wage another war is by democratizing it.

The argument for regime change is compelling for many: The only way Russia can be treated as a respectable member of the international community is if the security operatives and hypernationalists running the Kremlin are replaced by peace-loving, pro-Western democrats.

Such an evolution is the epitome of the ideal. But the key word here is "ideal." Practically speaking, an autocratic-turned-democratic Russia is likely the least probable outcome if Putin were to die in office, retire or be pushed aside by the Russian political elite. The more likely scenario is a Russia that is just as brutal, unforgiving and intent on establishing a sphere of influence as Putin was.

The worst-case scenario is chaos and disorder, in which the center in Moscow is unable to maintain administrative control over Russia's many localities. Civil war could even ensue — Chechnya and Dagestan, two republics in the south, have a history of separatist inclinations, and what better way to press those claims when the Russian government itself is incapable of extending its writ across the country?

As much as we would all like to see Russia turn into a democracy, the fact is that such political transformations are quite rare in history. Research from former intelligence officer Andrea Kendall-Taylor and political scientist Erica Frantz shows that only 20% of personality-based autocracies, which Putin's Russia most certainly is, become democracies. The rest take the form of old wine in new bottles. To name a few examples in the recent past: In Egypt and Yemen, where people-driven revolutions forced out two strongmen, other strongmen took their place.

Other case studies aren't exactly encouraging either. In the lead-up to the U.S. regime change operation in Iraq, Washington was full of experts, politicians and policymakers who assumed the removal of Saddam Hussein would usher in a pluralist, democratic utopia where every Iraqi vote would be counted equally. It didn't take long for that aspirational, but naive, view to come crashing down. Today, Iraq can hardly be called a democracy — at best, it's a system driven by sectarian quotas, riven by foreign influence and "governed" by a revolving cast of the same characters.

Or take Libya. The North African country was ruled by the erratic Moammar Gadhafi for four decades, with most of the state's institutions destroyed or rendered useless in order to ensure his personalist rule wasn't challenged. When the United States and NATO helped anti-Gadhafi rebels get rid of him in 2011 after months of airstrikes, speculation was rife in Washington that Libya could serve as an example for the entire Arab world of what stable democratic governance could look like. Of course, it didn't turn out that way; the Libya of today is a real-life version of Mad Max, with militias having more power than the security forces, ego-driven warlords fighting over power and rival parliaments writing their own rules.

The prospect of a democracy in Russia shouldn't be dismissed outright. Nor should we castigate those who dream about it — particularly when those dreams come from people who were persecuted by the system they wish to replace.

The point, rather, is to remind the dreamers of how rare autocracy-to-democracy transitions are. And in a country like Russia, with more than 6,000 nuclear warheads and approximately 10% of the world's oil production, the transition is bound to be extremely messy — if it happens at all.

Daniel DePetris is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

Students are feeling pandemic's effects on their education

By Katherine Prange

As COVID-19 changed our landscape, K-12 students saw their world shrink to the confines of their computers. Because so many districts in Illinois were unprepared for remote learning, students' grades in the last quarter of the 2020 school year could not have a negative impact on their second semester grade for that year. Many students then had no incentive to work. For those happy with their grades, coasting for the rest of the year was a no-brainer. Kids whose families struggled to make ends meet replaced school with work, and education was placed on the back burner — a different "normal."

Students in dual credit classes had a different path. While nothing could negatively affect their high school grades, dual credit classes continued. Since colleges and universities moved quickly to a remote learning environment, high school students enrolled in those classes moved forward as well. This didn't please my dual credit kiddos.

Students return for in-person instruction after two months of remote learning on Oct. 19, 2020, in Michigan City, Indiana. The COVID-19 pandemic spared no state or region as it caused historic learning setbacks for America's children, erasing decades of academic progress and widening racial disparities, according to results of a national test that provide the sharpest look yet at the scale of the crisis. **KELLEY SMITH/LA PORTE COUNTY HERALD-DISPATCH**

While their fellow students had the perceived choice to work or not, these kids, if they wanted to earn a decent grade for the college portion of the class, had to give 100% to their dual credit courses. It wasn't perfect, but students kept working, learning and putting effort into their education.

Students struggled in the 2020-21 school year too. Many schools remained open, often seesawing back and forth between in-person and remote instruction. Some schools focused solely on remote learning; other schools used a hybrid schedule. School administration officials and teachers worked to find a solution that helped students yet still followed ever-changing COVID-19 guidelines. And while they tried their hardest, students bore the brunt of COVID-19.

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, finally acknowledged that remote learning was not successful for students. I was in a unique situation because I taught in a remote setting and took classes during COVID-19. My experience as a learner mirrored my students' experience: Instructors did most of the talking, and students chimed in at the beginning and end of class only. The same scenario happened in many high school classes. If a student didn't feel comfortable with or know a teacher, he or she didn't talk during class and often used excuses like poor internet for not joining the conversation. Getting students to participate or feel comfortable in a remote environment was close to impossible. COVID-19 took a small classroom issue and created an obstacle difficult to overcome.

Another issue that hindered remote education was a lack of computer training. Since many schools weren't one-to-one with computer technology prior to March 2020, some students remarked that there was little training on new devices schools implemented at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. Finding assignments and completing them, trying to contact a teacher and other obstacles made remote education difficult for students.

Moving forward, how can we address the substantial learning losses? U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona recently told a roundtable in Tennessee: "It's time for us to think outside the box and try to create more opportunities for students and the best way to do that is to listen to the students directly."

But what do students say? For many, COVID-19 meant the loss of educational opportunities. It also meant the loss of social interaction, the loss of teacher and class choice, the loss of a full learning experience and the loss of a depth to education, which has eroded their foundation. And while many blame COVID-19 for the struggles they are facing today, some say the pandemic created an environment that allowed them to choose to not work at their highest level. Those students now wish they had thought more about the consequences of not fully embracing remote learning.

This year's seniors feel the brunt of their learning loss. Some students navigating dual credit classes are struggling with higher-level assignments. Studies have shown that students who take dual credit courses often attend college at a higher rate than their high school peers. However, in a post-pandemic world, enrollment in dual credit courses has decreased. Students used these courses as a head start to college; some now see them as a hurdle to graduation. Where goals used to be lofty, lower expectations based on educational and foundational losses have taken hold.

This year, how can students be brought up to grade level? COVID-19 eroded any progress students made in reading and math over the last 30 years. The most recent scores from the National Assessment of Educational Progress shows students in grades four and eight dropped an average of six points in math and three points in reading. Former U.S. Education Secretary Bill Bennett has called for a K-3 Marshall Plan that would focus solely on K-3 students to help stem the country's educational downfall.

The U.S. Department of Education has identified five tools to help address COVID-19's educational impact. The tools include using high-quality assessment and effective tutoring; addressing students' social, emotional and academic needs; closing gaps; and helping students transition to each level of education. Whatever path we take, we need to keep students and their goals of becoming independent people in mind.

Some students feel the "different normal" means lowered standards — from students, teachers and the education system. Others feel cracks and crevices in their educational foundation, and still, some students feel that the passion for education was lost in the sea of COVID-19.

Whatever students feel, their frustration, antipathy and uncertainness about the future are evident.

Katherine Prange is a high school English and accounting teacher in Gillespie, Illinois. The views in this piece are the author's alone and do not represent those of her employer.

OPINION

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, arrives to speak about the coronavirus at the White House in 2020 in Washington, D.C. **ALEX BRANDON/AP**

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Op-ed wrong about Fauci

Dr. Cory Franklin's critique of Dr. Anthony Fauci ("For all the good Dr. Fauci did, he should have retired sooner," Jan. 20) misses important points that speak to Fauci's effective handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

First, the U.S. faced a public health catastrophe in 2020, as hospital beds filled during an initial COVID-19 surge of unknown size. The lockdown policy was indeed costly but provided insurance against an overwhelmed health care system. It was carried out with ample public debate, including contrary opinions by reputable scientists; Fauci was entirely proper to expose what he saw as weaknesses in their arguments.

Second, Fauci was right to focus attention on the problem at hand — how to deal with a public health crisis — and not the less urgent question of whether the epidemic might have begun with gain-of-function research, i.e., originated in Chinese labs.

Third and most important, Fauci proved uniquely able to maintain the public's confidence in our public health system, even as the president was undermining it with inaccurate information. It is a testimony to Fauci's diplomatic and communications skills that he accomplished this while avoiding being fired by President Donald Trump, which would have drastically reduced the quality of public information.

It is puzzling that Franklin calls the dramatic federal response that occurred "sclerotic" and simply astounding for him to assert that "scientific analysis of the pandemic ... was badly lacking." I witnessed the exact opposite: namely, a remarkable outpouring of timely research from every source, coordinated through an unbelievably effective international communication network.

It has been a miracle of our age.

— Kenneth Small, Chicago

Fauci not the problem

Dr. Cory Franklin, a retired physician, suggests that Dr. Anthony Fauci should have retired earlier because of misjudgments Fauci made in leading the nation's pandemic response. Franklin first hails Fauci's 50-year research efforts in immunology and AIDS and praises his receipt of the Lasker Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Franklin then attempts to sully Fauci's reputation by claiming he made two purported mistakes. The first was Fauci's efforts to "suppress" ideas presented in an open letter, the Great Barrington Declaration, by three scientists. They suggested that the most vulnerable in the population should be protected from infection and all others should be exposed to the virus to hopefully develop herd immunity.

Their ideas were rejected by refereed journals and the World Health Organization, and at least 14 public health organizations warned that their ideas were unethical and dangerous. Franklin claims Fauci's second mistake was his failure to explain gain-of-function research to the public. This research uses selective mutations of a virus to study how its properties are affected. If Fauci had explained this research to the public, it would not have prevented COVID-19's spread or affected post-infection outcomes.

Franklin uses flimsy reasons to trash Fauci. The real problem was not Fauci but ideas presented by then-President Donald Trump, who suggested people use bleach, ultraviolet light and hydroxychloroquine to prevent or reduce infection.

— Richard Hahin, Cortland, Illinois

Fauci's silencing efforts

A big thank you to Dr. Cory Franklin for setting the record straight about Dr. Anthony Fauci. Of all of Fauci's misdeeds, the most egregious was his colluding with a superior at the National Institutes of Health to silence three prominent scientists who issued the Great Barrington declaration.

Fauci, with the unquestioning cooperation of his adoring media, quickly shredded the reputations of these scientists.

I close with this quote from Franklin: "The Great Barrington Declaration would have stimulated public debate and greater scientific analysis of the pandemic, which was badly lacking. Fauci has been quoted as 'representing science,' but it is anti-science to silence dissenting opinions and attack other scientists who are acting in good faith."

Like many a public figure, Fauci stayed too long at the fair.

— John Knoerle, Shorewood, Wisconsin

Glad for Fauci's guidance

Dr. Cory Franklin may have been a physician par excellence at Cook County Hospital, but that does not make his opinion correct regarding Dr. Anthony Fauci's handling of the pandemic. The critical word to emphasize here is "opinion." Dr. Franklin's op-ed does not stand up under factual examination.

Franklin sprinkles mentions of the Great Barrington Declaration throughout his op-ed, giving the impression that this "declaration" viewpoint is accepted by the scientific community when in fact there is much opposition to it. This theory advocates that instead of observing measures to slow the spread of the virus, the young and healthy should resume normal activity to achieve herd immunity and protect those vulnerable to severe illness. Do I have to remind Franklin that the young and healthy also proved vulnerable to COVID-19?

To support his claim that Fauci has hung on too long and should have retired long ago, Franklin cites author F. Scott Fitzgerald's observation of that "there are no second acts in American life." It's odd that Franklin would embrace that quote as he, a retired intensive care physician, currently enjoys a second act as a medical author.

Franklin criticizes Fauci for having to "back some of his early pronouncements on de-emphasizing masks and predicting herd immunity." Do I have to remind Franklin that little was known about COVID-19 at the start of the pandemic? I have a quote for him: "Everybody's a Monday morning quarterback."

I, for one, appreciate all the good that Fauci has done and am glad that we had him to guide us.

— Megan Bedard, Round Lake Beach

Mourning loss of Brehmer

I'm strangely shaken by WXRT-FM 93.1 host Lin Brehmer's death. Like so many of his listeners, I felt a personal connection to him after listening to him and Mary Dixon for so long. Brehmer had the rare gift of making each of his listeners feel like he was talking directly to them. And it's hard to imagine any other DJ with the kindness and on-air gutsiness to fulfill my request to play Tom Lehrer's "(I'm Spending) Hanukkah in Santa Monica" one December morning — not exactly standard rock 'n' roll fare.

I shall forever be grateful to him for introducing me to The Rainmakers, which became one of my very favorite bands right up there with The Gaslight Anthem, The Kinks, and Bruce Springsteen.

"It's great to be alive" may have been Lin Brehmer's tagline, but his insights and kindness really did make life even greater for all who had the privilege and pleasure of hearing his dulcet tones.

— Dan Lauber, River Forest

For online-exclusive letters, go to www.chicagotribune.com/letters. Email your letter submissions, 400 words or less, to letters@chicagotribune.com. Include your full name, address and phone number.

Best friend to listeners

When I read that Lin Brehmer passed, it actually brought tears to my eyes. After 30 years of him waking me up in the morning, I realized I had lost my best friend in the world.

— George Hovany, Gig Harbor, Washington

Bicyclists act with impunity

I wholeheartedly agree with Nadine Sweeney's letter regarding bicyclists and their sense of privilege ("Bicyclists' sense of privilege," Jan. 20).

If bicyclists want to share the road with motor vehicles, why don't they have to be licensed and carry liability insurance? If they are responsible for causing an accident, why will my insurance be on the hook?

I've never been as scared as I was the morning I hit a girl on her bike in Chicago as I was driving to work. She came off the sidewalk, crossing the street while I had a green right-turn arrow and cars were blocking my view of her. She just popped out as I started to make my right turn.

Fortunately, she was not injured, just severely frightened, as I was. In the last two years, the exact same thing has happened here in Orland Park, and I was fortunate enough to not hit either the kid or the adult on their bikes.

Bicyclists believe they are untouchable and don't have to worry about the police, which just happens to be true because I've never heard of any police crackdowns on bicyclists. We learn to drive in school; however, nobody in school teaches kids how to ride a bike safely.

I can't help but think how shortsighted and misguided this is. Unfortunately those who think they are invincible will pay a price.

— Brian Collins, Orland Park

Americans in name only

After reading Bridget West's op-ed about taking back the flag ("I want my flag back," Jan. 18), I thought of a new term for those who would corrupt our flag to support an agenda our Founders wouldn't recognize.

So let's start calling out these "Americans in name only" who misrepresent what this country means. These AMINOs can't be allowed to intimidate the rest of us into avoiding the very symbol of freedom and democracy across the world for fear of being thought to be one of them.

As an exercise, try reading aloud, not singing, the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner." It's actually a beautiful poem that is set to such complicated music that the meaning of the words can get lost in all those high notes. I think it will move you, bring new appreciation the next time you hear it sung and remind you of what the flag truly stands for.

It's our flag, and it is still there — for all of us.

— Linda Rossi, Naperville

ComEd's outrageous request

ComEd just announced that they are seeking a $1 billion rate increase for next year. Why do we continue to reward companies that try to bribe our elected officials?

— Bob Bennett. Arlington Heights

Gov. Gavin Newsom greets a woman Monday near the scene of a mass shooting in Monterey Park, Calif. **MARIO TAMA/GETTY**

Attack

from Page 1

"We all want answers to questions that we may never have answers to," Wiese said. "That's kind of the enigma of this. I know that my individual officers would like to know why. I know the families want to know why. The why is a big part of this. The problem is, we may never know the why."

Tran had visited Hemet police twice this month to report he was the victim of fraud, theft and poisoning by family members a decade or two ago in the Los Angeles area, Reyes said. Tran said he would return to the station with documentation but never did.

He was found dead Sunday in the van that he used to flee after attempting to attack a second dance hall, authorities said. The mayor of Monterey Park said Tran may have frequented the first dance hall that he targeted, and his ex-wife told CNN she had met him there and he offered her free lessons.

The death toll rose to 11 Monday after health officials announced that one of the 10 people wounded had died, the LA County Department of Health Services said.

Officials did not disclose any information about the 11th fatality, but all except one of the others were 60 or older, according to information released Monday by the Los Angeles coroner's office providing the first identifications.

My Nhan, 65, and Lilian Li, 63, were the first two women named. Two other women were in their 60s, and one was in her 50s. Three men were in their 70s, and two in their 60s were also killed.

Nhan's family said in a statement that she was a loving person whose kindness was contagious, and was a regular at the Star Ballroom Dance Studio.

"It's what she loved to do. But unfairly, Saturday was her last dance," the family said. "We are starting the Lunar New Year broken. We never imagined her life would end so suddenly."

Authorities have shared little about Tran.

Los Angeles Superior Court records show he was married in 2001 and divorced in 2006, citing irreconcilable difference. The couple had no children, said they had no community property and neither side had to pay alimony.

In the uncontested case, Tran noted in a filing that he could not get away from work to attend any court hearings, though he did not disclose where he worked or what he did.

His ex-wife told CNN that they married soon after they met at the dance hall. While she is named in court papers, she asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the case.

She said he would become upset if she missed a step dancing, but was never violent toward her.

Tran eventually moved from the San Gabriel Valley, a melting pot for Asian immigrants, and settled in Hemet, a low-income community of many retirees 75 miles east of Los Angeles in Riverside County.

Tran lived in The Lakes at Hemet West, a gated community off a busy road with a view of snow-covered mountains. The development boasts of amenities including a 9-hole golf course, a shuffleboard court and a dance floor. Properties listed for sale ranged from $45,000 to $222,000.

Hemet police had no records of incidents involving Tran in the community or calls for service at his home, Reyes said.

The shootings during Lunar New Year celebrations sent a wave of fear through Asian American communities and cast a shadow over festivities nationwide.

The massacre was the nation's fifth mass killing this month, and it struck one of California's largest celebrations of a holiday observed in many Asian cultures, dealing another blow to a community that has been the target of high-profile violence in recent years.

It was also the deadliest attack since May 24, when 21 people were killed in an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

"We do understand that he may have had a history of visiting this dance hall and perhaps the motivation has to do with some personal relationships. But that's something that I think investigators are still uncovering and investigating," said Monterey Park Mayor Henry Lo. Public records show Tran once had addresses in the city and neighboring ones.

The mayor and LA County Sheriff Robert Luna stressed that the motive for the attack remained unclear. No other suspect was wanted, according to the sheriff.

The suspect was carrying a semi-automatic pistol with an extended magazine, and a second handgun was discovered in the van where Tran died, police said.Tran is the second-oldest mass killer in the U.S. over the last nearly 20 years according to a database compiled by Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University. The only older mass killer was a 73-year-old who murdered five people in Yuma County Arizona in 2011 before killing himself. The database tracks every mass killing — defined as four dead not including the offender — committed in the U.S. since 2006.

Within three minutes of receiving the call, officers arrived at the Star Ballroom Dance Studio in Monterey Park, according to Monterey Park Police Chief Scott Wiese.

There, they found carnage inside and people trying to flee through all the doors.

"When they came into the parking lot, it was chaos," Wiese said.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON JAN. 24 ...

In A.D. 41, Roman Emperor Caligula, 28, was assassinated by members of the Praetorian Guard after a reign of nearly four years; he was succeeded by his uncle Claudius.

In 1742 Charles VII was elected Holy Roman Emperor during the War of the Austrian Succession.

In 1848, James W. Marshall discovered a gold nugget at Sutter's Mill in northern California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of '49.

In 1908 the first Boy Scout troop was organized in England by Robert Baden-Powell.

In 1924 the Russian city of St. Petersburg was renamed Leningrad in honor of the late revolutionary leader. (It has since reverted to the name St. Petersburg).

In 1942 a special court of inquiry into America's lack of preparedness for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor placed much of the blame on Rear Adm. Husband E. Kimmel and Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short, the Navy and Army commanders.

In 1943 President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill concluded a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

In 1972 the Supreme Court struck down laws that denied welfare benefits to people who had resided in a state for less than a year.

In 1978 a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite plunged through Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated, scattering radioactive debris over parts of northern Canada.

In 1985 the space shuttle Discovery was launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on the first secret, all-military shuttle mission.

In 1986 the Voyager II space probe swept past Uranus, coming within 50,679 miles of the seventh planet of the solar system.

In 1987 gunmen in Lebanon kidnapped educators Alann Steen, Jesse Turner and Robert Polhill and Mitheleshwar Singh. (All were later released.)

In 1994 President Bill Clinton promoted William Perry, the Pentagon's No. 2 man, to the post of defense secretary.

In 1995 President Bill Clinton appealed for common ground as he delivered his second State of the Union address, this time before a Republican-led Congress.

In 1996 the FDA approved Olestra, the nation's first zero-calorie artificial fat.

In 2004 NASA's Opportunity rover landed on Mars, arriving at the Red Planet exactly three weeks after its identical twin's landing.

In 2013 New Orleans Hornets owner Tom Benson announced he was changing his team's nickname to the Pelicans for the start of next season.

In 2017 President Donald Trump tweeted about Chicago's violence, saying he would "send in the Feds!", a vague missive that prompted days of debate.

Lottery numbers

For yesterday's numbers and recent drawings, go to chicagotribune.com/lottery or use your mobile device to scan the code above.

Chicago Tribune Death Notices
Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.
chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

In Memoriam

Patricia McGowan 'Patsy' Devereux

I heard your voice in the wind today
and I turned to see your face;
The warmth of the wind caressed me
as I stood silently in place.
Miss and love you forever Mom.
Monica

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Death Notices

Bolger (Sommer), Tracy Lee

Tracy Lee Bolger (Sommer), 61, of Chicago, Illinois, passed away peacefully at home on January 17, 2023. Born August 3, 1961 in Somerville, New Jersey, Tracy graduated from Homestead High School in Mequon, Wisconsin. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point and Milwaukee. Tracy moved to Chicago in 1985. She married Patrick Bolger of Glen Ellyn Il in 1987 and they built a big, beautiful, and busy life together in Chicago.

Tracy joined the institutional investment firm LSV Asset Management in 1997, where she would be elevated to become the firm's first female partner. Deeply dedicated to her career and colleagues, she was modest about her professional accomplishments and how hard she worked to achieve them.

Tracy was an adventure seeker, diving out of airplanes and into oceans, and welcoming every chance to try something new. She eagerly traveled the world. She loved experiencing live music, cheering for Chicago's sports teams, and fighting passionately for women's rights.

Tracy was spectacularly adored by her family and friends. Beautiful, smart, kind, optimistic, and unfailingly generous, she had a special gift to bring out the best in others. Her loved ones are blessed with the memories of countless good times, joy and laughter, and the passion for life that she embodied. Her legacy will be carried on by her husband of 36 years Patrick; siblings Rob Sommer of Davidson, North Carolina and Betsy Kennedy of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan; Father Bob Sommer of Cedarburg, Wisconsin; and her many beloved nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her mother Geraldine Sommer.

A Celebration of Tracy's Life will be held April 29th starting at 2 pm, Columbia Yacht Club Chicago Il

Memorial contributions may be directed to the nonprofit Chicago Hope Academy, in recognition of Patrick and Tracy's longtime support of their mission.

Chicago Hope Academy: 2189 W. Bowler Street, Chicago, IL. 60612. Please note in remembrance of Tracy Bolger

www.chicagohopeacademy.org

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Citron, Little Jerry

Jerome "Little Jerry" Citron, 74, beloved husband and best friend of Sharon nee Pitler for 53 wonderful years; loving father of Amy (Brad) Grossman and Adam Citron; cherished Papa Little Jerry of David and Ellie Grossman and Sophia Citron; devoted son of the late Fannie and Benjamin Citron; treasured friend of many. Little Jerry was a proud lawyer for 50 years and dedicated his life to mentoring others. He held the title of being the longest rider on the Metra for 50 years. Little Jerry took the law serious but not himself. When he wasn't in the office or courtroom, you could find Little Jerry on the golf course, always with a cigar in his mouth. His greatest joy in life was his family.
In lieu of flowers, please post a video tribute of a Little Jerry memory you have at https://share.vidday.com/e/m-qehby2. Chapel service Wednesday 2:30 PM at Shalom Memorial Funeral Home, 1700 W. Rand Road, Arlington Heights. Interment Shalom Memorial Park. For the link to view the service virtually, shiva information and to leave condolences, www.ShalomMemorial.org or (847) 255-3520.

Shalom Memorial Funeral Home

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Grosko, Lucille M.

Lucille M. Grosko, of Vernon Hills, IL, passed away peacefully in her sleep January 21, 2023, at the age of 96. She is preceded in death by her husband of 35 years, Steve J. Grosko Sr., and her son Stephen J. Grosko Jr. She is survived by her daughter, Vanessa A. Grosko, and her son, Michael A. Grosko.
Visitation will be Wednesday and Thursday, January 25 and 26, from 4PM to 8PM, at McMurrough Chapel, 101 Park Pl., Libertyville, IL, 60048. Funeral Mass Friday, January 27 at 10AM at St. Mary of Vernon Catholic Church, Route 45, Indian Creek. Interment Ascension Cemetery. For information, call (847) 362-2626.

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Gross, Edward R. 'Ed'

Edward R. "Ed" Gross, age 83, a longtime resident of Naperville, IL and most recently of Chicago, IL, passed away peacefully on January 21, 2023, at Edward Hospital in Naperville, surrounded by the love of his family. He was born on August 21, 1939, in Berwyn, IL.
Arrangements by Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Naperville, IL.
For service times and a complete obituary, please visit www.friedrich-jones.com or call (630) 355-0213 for more information.

Friedrich-Jones Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

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Harrison, Thomas F

Thomas "Tom" Francis Harrison of Glenview, IL, Age 88. Passed away peacefully in Minnesota on January 5th, 2023. Beloved husband of Susan Harrison nee Stockmar for 34 years. Loving son of the late Thomas Harrison and Myrtle Harrison. Devoted father of Diane (Rick) Coartney. Proud grandfather of Lauren Coartney, Danielle Coartney. Loving brother of the late Gerald Harrison, Mary Katherine Harrison. Cherished uncle of many nieces and nephews along with many friends. Visitation: 9:15 am - Mass: 10:00 am Saturday April 22, 2023 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. 1775 Grove St, Glenview, IL 60025. In lieu of flowers, please donate to any children's charity of your choice.

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Hechter, Marshall Kenneth

Marshall Kenneth Hechter, beloved husband of Joan for 55 wonderful years; loving father of Elissa (Craig) Goldsmith, David (Tessa) Hechter, Michael (Rachel) Hechter; cherished Poppa of Lauren and Lucy Goldsmith, Cade and Tayla Hechter, and Isaac and Miles Hechter; dear brother of the late Raymond (the late Roselle) Hechter; treasured friend of many. Marshall was an alumnus of Penn Elementary School, Austin High School (Class of 1956), Illinois Institute of Technology (Class of 1962), earned his MBA-Finance at University of Chicago Graduate School of Business (Class of 1969), and earned a Master of Arts in Secondary Education programs at National-Louis University (June 2003). In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Stand With Us, standwithus.com. Chapel service, Tuesday, 12:15 PM at **Shalom Memorial Funeral Home**, 1700 W. Rand Road, Arlington Heights. Interment Shalom Memorial Park. For information, including a link to view the service, shiva or to leave condolences: **Shalom Memorial Funeral Home**, www.shalommemorial.org or (847) 255-3520.

Shalom Memorial Funeral Home

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Howard, Donald 'Woody'

Woody passed away on Friday December 30, 2022, in Palos Heights IL. Woody was born to Betty and Donald Howard on October 14, 1950, in Chicago Illinois. Woody married Gail Funches on May 3, 1968, in Chicago Illinois. The couple had four children and celebrated 50 years of marriage. Woody worked as a hairstylist for over 30 years in the Northshore. He will be remembered for his storytelling and infectious laugh. Woody is preceded in death by his wife Gail Howard, his mother Betty Howard, and sister Cindy Howard. Woody is survived by his sister Melanie Pekala as well as his four children: Tiffanni (Mike) Mielke, Tommy Howard, Tierney (James) Smith, and Travis Howard. Grandchildren: Joshua Matos, Paulette Mielke, Dominique Clement, Nate Mielke, Nevaeh Howard, Isaac and Aria Smith. Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, January 28th at 10:30 at Most Holy Redeemer at 9525 Lawndale Ave. Evergreen Park, Il.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Koshiol, Lawrence J

On the 12th of January 2023, Laurence Koshiol, son of the late Julius and Florence Koshiol, passed away after a long battle with illness. Larry is survived by his sister, Yvonne, and his 3 daughters, Vickie Brown, Amichelle Cutrone, and Jennifer Koshiol. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren, Vickies beautiful children, Zack, Christa, Jacob and Evy. As well as Jennifer's children, Kenny, Austin, and baby Sylvia. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Visitation will be held at **Cumberland Chapels** 8300 W. Lawrence Ave Norridge, IL 60706 on Saturday February 11th, 2023, from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm, with a short service at 3:00 pm. The family asks that in lieu of money, donations be directed to Norridge gardens, to help pay for expenses. For more info please call 708-456-8300 or www.cumberlandchapels.com

Cumberland Chapels

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Krueger, Charlotte

Charlotte Krueger, loving mother of Walter (Chanadda) Krueger, cherished grandmother of Ryan, Riley and Ryder Krueger, beloved sister of the late Charles Dunbar, fond aunt Leslie (Keith) Fredericks and Andrea (Claude) Sherman. Chapel Service 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at **Modell Funeral Home**, 7710 S. Cass Avenue, Darien. Interment Chapel Hill Garden West Cemetery. Visitation Tuesday 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Modell Funeral Home & Cremation Services Est. 1868

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Kunkel, Doris Jean

Doris Jean (Wing) Kunkel, age 90, lifelong resident of LaGrange, Illinois and parishioner of Saint Cletus Parish. Beloved wife of 57 years to the late Robert (Bob). Loving mother of William (JoAnn), Thomas (Geraldine), Jeffrey, and Marianne (Robert) Frederick. Cherished grandmother of Katherine (Cory) Kamholz, Robert (Emily) Kunkel, Jeffrey (Sean Doe-Simkins) Kunkel and Michael Kunkel; Kelly (Pam) Zipper, William (Kayla Marx) Kunkel and Kristy (Adam) Biodrowski; Sarah (James) Swanson, Kevin (Sarah) Kunkel and Kelly (Gabriella Cipriani) Kunkel; and Ashlee (Jay) Jasper. Cherished great-grandmother of Theo and Will Kamholz, Nora and Grace Kunkel, Blake and Parker Swanson, Wesley and Quinn Kunkel. Sister of Diane Ammons. Doris was preceded in death by her daughter-in-law, Elizabeth (wife of her son Jeffrey), and great-grandson, Milo (son of Kevin and Sarah). Doris grew up in Maywood, Illinois, Maquoketa, Iowa and Villa Park, Illinois. She met Bob at Hendricks' Pharmacy in Maywood and they were married on September 10, 1955. They began their married life in Cicero while Bob finished pharmacy school and she worked as an executive secretary for the Public Service Company (a predecessor to Commonwealth Edison). They moved in 1958 to LaGrange and she began her busy life as a mother, girlfriend, bridge partner, Cub Scout den mother, Saint Cletus Woman's Council president, and party planner. She poured her energy into her family and friends. After the children were grown, she worked for Chas A. Stevens and the Hinsdale Woman's Clinic. She died peacefully surrounded by family at Plymouth Place. Visitation will be at **Hallowell & James Funeral Home**, 1025 West 55th Street, Countryside from 9:00am until 10:30am on Friday, January 27th. Funeral Mass will follow at 11:00am at Saint Cletus Church, 600 West 55th Street, La Grange, Illinois. Interment at Queen of Heaven Cemetery will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Robert C. and Doris W. Kunkel Endowment for Tuition Assistance at Saint Ignatius College Prep are appreciated https://www.ignatius.org. Service Info: 708-352-6500 or HJFunerals.com

Hallowell & James Funeral Home

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Loeb, Elsie L.

Elsie Loeb passed away on January 21, 2023 at the age of 88. Elsie was born on September 22, 1934 and grew up in St. Louis, Missouri. She graduated from Connecticut College and met Dr. Henry Loeb (unrelated) in Chicago. They married in 1960 and raised four children in the greater Chicago area (Highland Park). In addition to being a loving wife, mother, and grandmother, she was devoted to a range of charities including serving as chairwoman for the Michael Reese Crystal Ball in 1981. She also was an owner of the Schneider-Loeb-Bluhm ceramics gallery in the 1990s. Elsie was adored by everyone who knew her and always exuded a subtle elegance, dignity, and calm composure even in the face of difficult times. She was a supporter of various liberal causes and democratic candidates nationwide. She lived a long and beautiful life full of rice crackers, tennis, creme caramel, novels, Rummikub, walking on beaches, and rolling tongues (a rare ability that runs in the Loeb family). Most of all, she was continually and selflessly devoted to her friends, husband, children and grandchildren. She will be intensely missed by them all. She is predeceased by her parents Louise and Benjamin Loeb and her brother Alexander Loeb of St. Louis. She is survived by her husband of 62 years Dr. Henry Loeb; her brother Steve (Rochelle Weiss) Loeb; her children Elizabeth "Lisa" (Henry) Loeb, Susan (Ira) Chaplik, Caroline Loeb and Allan Loeb; and her five grandchildren Jordan, Daniel, Hannah, Scotty and Jonah. Memorial service Wednesday, January 25, 12PM at **Weinstein & Piser Funeral Home**, 111 Skokie Blvd, Wilmette. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Louise & Benjamin, Marjorie & Harry Loeb Endowment Fund for Indigent Jews managed by the Jewish Federation of St. Louis (https://www.jfedstl.org/how-give/donate-now/) or Hope Clinic which provides compassionate abortion care in Granite City, IL 62040, near the Missouri border (https://hopeclinic.com/). For info: 847-256-5700

WEINSTEIN & PISER FUNERAL HOME

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Mauer, Helen F.

Helen F. Mauer, née Johnson, age 96, of Morton Grove. Beloved wife of the late Fred C.; loving mother of Patricia (Ray) Erdman, Nancy (Philip) Lindroth, and the late Laurie (John Gruze). Visitation, Wednesday, January 25, 2023, from 3 to 7 p.m., at **HABEN Funeral Home & Crematory**, 8057 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Lying-in-state, Thursday, January 26, from 10:30 a.m. until time of Funeral Service, 11 a.m., at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie Ave. (at Oakton St.), Skokie. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie Ave., Skokie, IL, 60077. Funeral info: 847.673.6111 or habenfuneral.com to sign guestbook and to leave a condolence message.

HABEN Funeral Home & Crematory

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

McNally, Joseph F.

Joseph F. McNally, age 70, of Palos Hills; Native of Mayobridge, County Down, Ireland; Beloved husband of Mary McNally, nee Kenny; Loving father of Christopher (Sarah) McNally and Brian (Mary Clare) McNally; Dear grandfather of Rory, Liam, Annie, Molly, and Jack; Loving son of the late Michael and Margaret McNally, nee Rice; Dearest son-in-law of Nancy and the late Michael Kenny; Dearest brother of Sr. Mary Leontia, Margaret (John) McGivern, Teresa (Johnny) McCumiskey, Seamus (Cecilia) McNally, and the late Kevin, Colette, Peter (late Anne), Bernadette, Michael McNally and Leontia McStay. Brother-in-law of Kathy (Dan) Burke, Ann (Jerry) Daly, Theresa O'Carroll, and Michael (Patricia) Kenny. Dear uncle and friend to many; Local 399 stationary engineer, active member of Gaelic Park and the St. Brendan's Gaelic Football Club; Visitation Thursday, January 26, 2023, 3 P.M. to 9 P.M. at Lack and Sons Funeral Home, 9236 South Roberts Road, Hickory Hills. Funeral Prayers Friday, January 27, 2023, 9:15 A.M. to St. Patricia Church, Mass 10 A.M. Interment Good Shepherd Cemetery; In lieu of flowers memorials to Misercordia, 6300 North Ridge Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60660 appreciated; Information 708-430-5700

Lack & Sons Since 1916

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Nadler, Anne B.

Anne B. Nadler, nee Africk, a remarkable 103 years old, of Northbrook, formerly of Glenview; beloved wife for 63 years of the late Sol S. Nadler; loving mother of Edward (Susan) Nadler and Fern (Dr. Michael) Ellison; adored grandmother of Ellen Brown, Michael (Carol) Nadler, Julie (David) Richman, Daniel (Natalie) Nadler, Dana (Robert) Mitchell and Richard Ellison; proud great grandmother of Jacob, Haley, Samuel, Ari, Eva, Noah, Melanie, Elizabeth, Brooke, and Benjamin; devoted daughter of the late Max and the late Rose (Silverman) Africk; dear sister of the late Hyman (late Lenore) Africk and the late Sol (late Ruth) Africk; cherished aunt, great aunt, and friend to many. Anne was the true matriarch of her family; they were the center of her universe. She was thoughtful, kind, proper, and fair. Her passions included traveling, cruising and gardening. Service Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrook Community Synagogue, 2548 Jasper Court, Northbrook. The service will be livestreamed on Anne's webpage at www.goldmanfuneralgroup.com. Interment Shalom Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Northbrook Community Synagogue, www.ncshul.com or Congregation Beth Shalom, www.bethshalomnb.org. For Information: The **Goldman Funeral Group** (847) 478-1600.

Goldman Funeral Group

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Pacioni, Melica "'Mickey"'

Melica "Mickey" Pacioni, beloved wife of the late Richard; loving mother of Gregory and Mark (Denise) Pacioni; dear grandmother of Abigail, Allison and Avery. Visitation Thursday 9:00 am to 10:30 am at **Hursen Funeral Home & Crematory**, SW corner of Roosevelt & Mannheim Roads, Hillside/Westchester to St. John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Church, Bellwood. Service 11:00 am. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to Hinsdale Humane Society, 21 Salt Creek Lane, Hinsdale, IL 60521. Info: 800-562-0082 or www.hursen.com

Hursen ...Since 1882

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Peterson, Evelyn

Evelyn Graham Peterson, age 95, a longtime resident of Clarendon Hills passed away on January 22, 2023, with her family by her side. Beloved wife of the late Thomas D. Peterson. Loving mother of James (Elaine) Peterson, Celeste (Don) Hardy, and Glenn (Ann) Peterson. Dear grandmother of Alanna Peterson (Erin Childs), Adam (Laura) Hardy, Diana Peterson, Shawn (Karlie) Hardy, Nathan Peterson, Claire Peterson, and the late Brandon Hardy. Great Grandmother of Brennon, Adalee, Donovan, Callen, Riley, Dyllan, and Jordan. Sister of the late Raymond J. Graham and Alice G. Kaide. A visitation will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, from 10am until time of funeral mass at 11am at Notre Dame Church, 64 Norfolk Ave., Clarendon Hills, IL 60514. Interment will follow at Clarendon Hills Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Notre Dame Food Pantry, 64 Norfolk Ave., Clarendon Hills, IL 60514. Arrangements by **Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale**. For more information: 630-703-9131 or www.powellfuneraldirectors.com.

POWELL FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Placzek, Victoria 'Vicki'

Victoria "Vicki" Placzek, (nee, Depa) 89; beloved wife of the late Joseph; loving mother of Kenneth (Arlene), Joyce (late Richard) Picur and Kevin (Carol); devoted grandmother of Benjamin (Dr. Elizabeth), Rebecca (Brad), Jonathan (Alyson), Douglas (Christine), Rachael and Sarah; great-grandmother of Lauren, Katherine, Jacob, and Douglas Jr.; also, dear sister, aunt and friend of many. Visitation Wednesday, January 25, 2023 from 3:00 - 9:00 p.m. at COLONIAL-WOJCIECHOWSKI FUNERAL HOME 6250 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Funeral services Thursday, January 26, 2023, starting with prayers at 10:00 a.m. from the funeral home, proceeding to St. Elizabeth of the Trinity (formerly St. Tarcissus Church) for 10:30 a.m. Mass. Interment will follow at Maryhill Cemetery in Niles. Info 773-774-0366 and full obit www.colonialfuneral.com

Colonial-Wojciechowski

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Polniak, Sr., Anthony G.

Anthony G. Polniak, Sr., age 66, of Oak Lawn, passed away Friday, Dec. 23, 2022 after a battle with pulmonary fibrosis. Loving Father to Anthony (Jill) Polniak Jr. and Mary (Mike) McRaven. Devoted Grandfather (Ga/Dziadzia) to William Joseph Polniak; Matthew Jacob, Leo Anthony, Wyatt Walker, and Mischa Anne McRaven. Beloved Brother of Marion, Anna (Casey) Szczepanski, Stella and Vincent (Kelly). Preceded in death by his sister Maria, brother Bruno, mother Anna and father William. Beloved Uncle of many nieces and nephews. Great Friend to many people.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Schmidt, Diane

Diane Schmidt, age 77, of Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico passed away January 20th at Atria Park Assisted Living, Glen Ellyn,IL.

Born in the parish community of Peterstown in Mendota, IL on December 23, 1945, she was the third of the late George and Dorothy Schmidt's 7 loving children.

Diane was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Carol (Donald Engels deceased), sister Linda, and brother Richard (Diane deceased).

She is survived by her brother Joe Schmidt (Terri), brother Mark Schmidt (Teresa), and brother Ray Schmidt (Shelly); beloved aunt of Tim Engels, Lori Grinka (Randy), Brian Schmidt (Laura), Robert Schmidt (Luz), Tricia Hernandez (Mike), Wes Schmidt, Travis Schmidt (Denise), Chris Schmidt (Kayla), Katie Schmidt, Stephanie Schmidt, Alicia Harker (Jefferey), and Matthew Gass; and her 2 most gracious friends, Judy Fulmer and Anita Balodis, who were always there during her final two years battling duodenal cancer.

Diane will be remembered for living life to her fullest. At age 14 she left for the Sisters of Saint Francis of Assisi in Milwaukee graduating from Saint Mary's high school, and Cardinal Stritch college. After serving community and ministry in Delavan, Wisconsin and Longmont, Colorado, she came back to the Chicago area receiving her Master's of Social Work from the University of Illinois in Chicago. She spent the next several years managing at Oak Park Family Service, American Heart Association, and then director at the Worksite Wellness Council of Illinois. In 1997 she became a National Marketing Director at Juice Plus working with individuals and small to mid-sized businesses developing a wellness program to enhance their health.

She retired in 2016 moving to Ajijic, Mexico and living the Lake Chapala life.

A memorial service will be held at a later date for family and friends.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to either National Parks Conservation Association of Washington D.C., or Child Fund International of Richmond, Virginia

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Zajakowski, Claude J

Claude J Zajakowski died peacefully at home surrounded by those he loved on January 22, 2023. He was born on January 11, 1934, to Joseph Zajakowski and Anna Zaleta. Preceded in death by his wife, Rosemary McDonough Zajakowski. Loving father of Amy (Jim) Zajakowski Uhll, Blythe (Jim) Szafoni and Robert Born. Cherished grandfather to Michael, Peter, Matthew and Connor. Fond uncle, cousin and friend to many.

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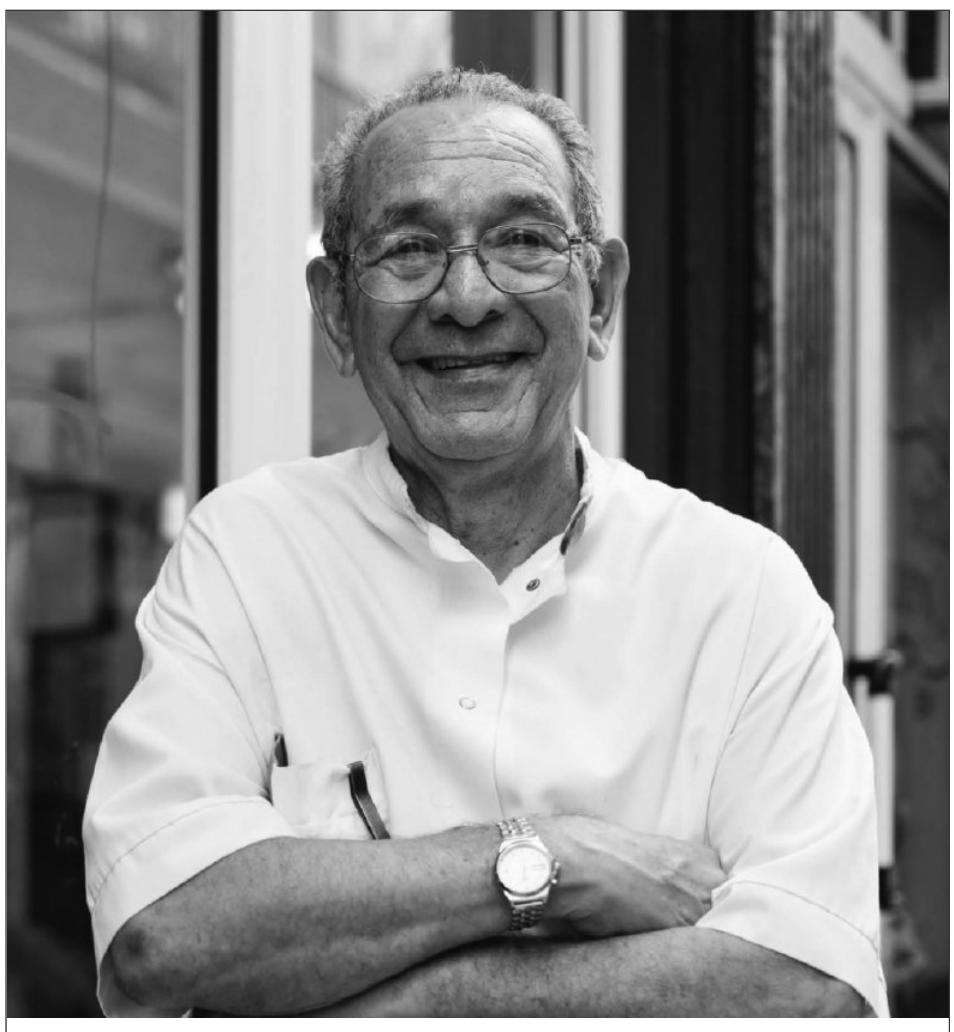

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Labrador Retiever		219-628-3848
Hebron, IN	$1200	Females

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LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Triton College will receive sealed proposals at 2000 Fifth Avenue, River Grove, IL 60171 for the following project.

EXTERIOR LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE 2023

NO PRE-BID MEETING

Bid opening Thursday 2/7/2023 2:00 PM

Specifications will be issued to prime bidders, which may be obtained from the Purchasing Department or by visiting www.triton.edu/rfp. Bid proposals will be received up to the hours and dates listed above in room A 306, Finance Office located in the Learning Resource Center building at Triton College. Immediately after the closing hour for receiving bids, they will be publicly opened and read aloud in room A-300.

All questions pertaining to construction documents should be sent to Triton College attention John Lambrecht (708) 456-0300 Ext. 3048 or email johnlambrecht@triton.edu
1/24/2023 7365960

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF COOK DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Bids will be received by the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) on the date and time (Central Standard Time) stated for the specific Request for Proposal (RFP) listed below at 175 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 350, Chicago, Illinois, 60604:

Project Name: Low-Voltage Services – Authority Wide

Specification Number: 2023-100-003

Questions Deadline: January 27, 2023
Time: 2:00 P.M.

Proposal Due Date: February 17, 2023
Time: 2:00 P.M.

Contact Person: Deborah O'Donnell
Telephone Number: (312) 542-4725
E-mail Address: dodonnell@thehacc.org

The Solicitation Package, specifications and architectural drawings may be downloaded by registering on our website which lists a complete list of all current bid opportunities with the HACC:

https://ha.internationaleprocurement.com/requests.html?company_id=25898&nocache=8586242

Proposals that are not properly submitted will be considered non-responsive and be disqualified from consideration. Proposals submitted late will not be accepted. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals if deemed in the best interest of the Housing Authority of Cook County.

Richard Monocchio,
Executive Director
1/20 & 1/24/23 7364759

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will be accepting applications for the following classification(s):

Sheet Metal Worker (Original)

Application Filing Period: January 20, 2023 through February 3, 2023. **Examination Date:** March 4, 2023. **Location:** Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (CHAS), 3857 West 111th Street, Chicago, IL. **Scope of Examination:** Knowledge of Sheet Metal Worker practices. **Nature of Position and Duties:** Under supervision, performs skilled work in connection with the fabrication, erection, assembly, alteration and repair of articles constructed of sheet metal, including sheet metal pipes, flues, ducts, gutters, bins and other items constructed of sheet metal. **Salary:** $49.10 per hour

Applications can be submitted online only at www.districtjobs.org.

Additional information may be found at www.districtjobs.org or call 312-751-5100.

Mailed, Emailed, Hand delivered or Faxed Applications Will Not Be Accepted. Resumes Will Not Be Accepted In Place of Application Forms. An Equal Opportunity Employer - M/F/D
Pub: 1/20 thru 2/3/2023 7364070

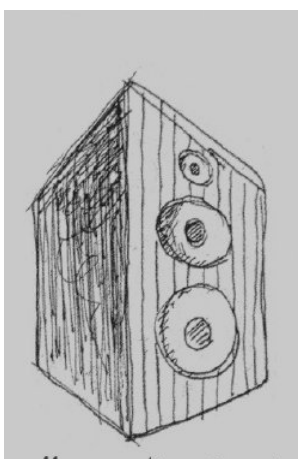
ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSAL

Triton College will receive sealed proposals at 2000 Fifth Avenue, River Grove, IL 60171 for the following needs:

Summer 2023 Triton College Continuing Ed Guide Bid opening 2/14/23 1:00 pm

Specifications will be issued to prime bidders, which may be obtained from the Purchasing Department or by visiting www.triton.edu/rfp . Bid proposals will be received up to the hours and dates listed above in room A 306, Finance Office located in the Learning Resource Center building at Triton College. Immediately after the closing hour for receiving bids, they will be publicly opened and read aloud in room A 300.

Sean O'Brien Sullivan
Vice President – Business Services
708/456-0300 Ext. 3467
January 24, 2023 - 7365902



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TAKE NOTICES

TO: Jose Monarrez; City of Chicago, c/o City Clerk; Illinois Department of Revenue; Illinois Attorney General;; Judgment Creditors, And Decree Creditors, If Any Of The Above Described As "Unknown Owners"; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Parties In Occupancy Or Actual Possession Of Said Property; Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2022 COTD 001594 FILED: December 9, 2022 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: February 25, 2022 Certificate No. 21S-0007362 Sold for General Taxes of: 2021 Scavenger Sale (2009-2018) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 4145 W. 5TH AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL Legal Description or Property Index No. 16-15-410-007-0000 Vol. 563 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on June 9, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before June 9, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on June 23, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before June 9, 2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 Judd M. Harris #55136 933 West Van Buren St. Suite 304 Chicago, IL 60607 312-795-9600 harrislaw@sbcglobal.net Elizabeth Heneghan, purchaser or assignee Dated: January 15, 2023 1/24, 1/25, 1/26/20237363410

TO: Metro Capital Investors, LLC, c/o Floyd Williams, Jr.; Illinois Secretary of State (re: Metro Capital Investors, LLC [NGS]); Metro Capital Investors, LLC, c/o Chris Athanasopoulos; W.L. Miggins; City of Chicago, c/o City Clerk; Judgment Creditors, And Decree Creditors, If Any Of The Above Described As "Unknown Owners"; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Parties In Occupancy Or Actual Possession Of Said Property; Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2022 COTD 001591 FILED: December 9, 2022 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: February 23, 2022 Certificate No. 21S-0005471 Sold for General Taxes of: 2021 Scavenger Sale (2009-2018) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 534 West 60th Street, Chicago, IL Legal Description or Property Index No. 20-16-303-020-0000 Vol. 422 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on June 9, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before June 9, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on June 23, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before June 9, 2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 Judd M. Harris #55136 933 West Van Buren St. Suite 304 Chicago, IL 60607 312-795-9600 harrislaw@sbcglobal.net KENWOOD INVESTMENT GROUP INC., purchaser or assignee Dated: January 15, 2023 1/24, 1/25, 1/26/20237363423

TAKE NOTICES

TO: Kiley LLC; Kiley LLC c/o Julia Davis; Chester Wojnicki; City of Chicago, c/o City Clerk; Judgment Creditors, And Decree Creditors, If Any Of The Above Described As "Unknown Owners"; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Parties In Occupancy Or Actual Possession Of Said Property; Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2022 COTD 001588 FILED: December 9, 2022 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: February 23, 2022 Certificate No. 21S-0005468 Sold for General Taxes of: 2021 Scavenger Sale (2008-2018) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 5940 SOUTH PARNELL AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL Legal Description or Property Index No. 20-16-303-013-0000 Vol. 422 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on June 9, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before June 9, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on June 23, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before June 9, 2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 Judd M. Harris #55136 933 West Van Buren St. Suite 304 Chicago, IL 60607 312-795-9600 harrislaw@sbcglobal.net KENWOOD INVESTMENT GROUP INC., purchaser or assignee Dated: January 15, 2023
1/24, 1/25, 1/26/20237363398

TO: TP Chicago Partners, General Partnership; TP Chicago Partners, General Partnership c/o James Athanasopoulos; City of Chicago, c/o City Clerk; Judgment Creditors, And Decree Creditors, If Any Of The Above Described As "Unknown Owners"; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Parties In Occupancy Or Actual Possession Of Said Property; Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2022 COTD 001590 FILED: December 9, 2022 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: February 23, 2022 Certificate No. 21S-0005469 Sold for General Taxes of: 2021 Scavenger Sale (2009-2018) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 542 West 60th Street , Chicago, IL Legal Description or Property Index No. 20-16-303-017-0000 Vol. 422 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on June 9, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before June 9, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on June 23, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before June 9, 2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 Judd M. Harris #55136 933 West Van Buren St. Suite 304 Chicago, IL 60607 312-795-9600 harrislaw@sbcglobal.net KENWOOD INVESTMENT GROUP INC., purchaser or assignee Dated: January 15, 2023
1/24, 1/25, 1/26/20237363401

TO: David M. Fleishman (re: Fore Site Lots, LLC-dissolved 8/9/2013); Illinois Secretary of State - Dissolved LLC's (re: Fore Site Lots, LLC - dissolved 8/9/2013); John D. Cummins (re: Fore Site Lots, LLC - dissolved 8/9/2013); Illinois Secretary of State - Dissolved LLC's (re: South Sub Renovations LLC - dissolved 12/4/2022); Woodie Johnson (re: South Sub Renovations LLC - dissolved 12/4/2020); City of Chicago, c/o City Clerk; Judgment Creditors, And Decree Creditors, If Any Of The Above Described As "Unknown Owners"; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Parties In Occupancy Or Actual Possession Of Said Property; Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2022 COTD 001595 FILED: December 9, 2022 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: February 23, 2022 Certificate No. 21S-0005475 Sold for General Taxes of: 2021 Scavenger Sale (2010-2018) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 439 WEST 60TH PLACE, CHICAGO, IL Legal Description or Property Index No. 20-16-314-006-0000 Vol. 422 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on June 9, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before June 9, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on June 23, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before June 9, 2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 Judd M. Harris #55136 933 West Van Buren St. Suite 304 Chicago, IL 60607 312-795-9600 harrislaw@sbcglobal.net KENWOOD INVESTMENT GROUP INC., purchaser or assignee Dated: January 15, 2023
1/24, 1/25, 1/26/20237363415

TO: David M. Fleishman (re: Fore Site Lots, LLC-dissolved 8/9/2013); Illinois Secretary of State - Dissolved LLC's (re: Fore Site Lots, LLC - dissolved 8/9/2013); John D. Cummins (re: Fore Site Lots, LLC - dissolved 8/9/2013); Illinois Secretary of State - Dissolved LLC's (re: South Sub Renovations LLC - dissolved 12/4/2022); Woodie Johnson (re: South Sub Renovations LLC - dissolved 12/4/2020); City of Chicago, c/o City Clerk; Judgment Creditors, And Decree Creditors, If Any Of The Above Described As "Unknown Owners"; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Parties In Occupancy Or Actual Possession Of Said Property; Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2022 COTD 001596 FILED: December 9, 2022 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: February 23, 2022 Certificate No. 21S-0005470 Sold for General Taxes of: 2021 Scavenger Sale (2010-2018) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 540 WEST 60TH STREET, CHICAGO, IL Legal Description or Property Index No. 20-16-303-018-0000 Vol. 422 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on June 9, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before June 9, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on June 23, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before June 9, 2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 Judd M. Harris #55136 933 West Van Buren St. Suite 304 Chicago, IL 60607 312-795-9600 harrislaw@sbcglobal.net KENWOOD INVESTMENT GROUP INC., purchaser or assignee Dated: January 15, 2023
1/24, 1/25, 1/26/20237363419

TO: Hubertus Investment Group Corp. (dissolved 10/9/2015); Hubert Kozub (re: Hubertus Investment Group Corp., [dissolved 10/9/2015]); Illinois Secretary of State - Dissolved Corporations (re: Hubertus Investment Group Corp. dissolved 10/9/2015); City of Chicago, c/o City Clerk; Judgment Creditors, And Decree Creditors, If Any Of The Above Described As "Unknown Owners"; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Parties In Occupancy Or Actual Possession Of Said Property; Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2022 COTD 001589 FILED: December 9, 2022 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: February 22, 2022 Certificate Nos. 21S-0003857 & 21S-0003858 Sold for General Taxes of: Scavenger Sale (2009-2018) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Properties located at: 6842 SOUTH LANGLEY AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL AND 6844 SOUTH LANGLEY AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL Legal Description or Property Index Nos. 20-22-411-041-0000 and 20-22-411-042-0000 Vol. 259 This notice is to advise you that the above properties have been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on June 9, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the properties from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of these properties if redemption is not made on or before June 9, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on June 23, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before June 9, 2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 Judd M. Harris #55136 933 West Van Buren St. Suite 304 Chicago, IL 60607 312-795-9600 harrislaw@sbcglobal.net KENWOOD INVESTMENT GROUP INC., purchaser or assignee Dated: January 15, 2023
1/24, 1/25, 1/26/20237363404

TO: Community Outreach Volunteers, NFP, c/o Tonny Lumu; Illinois Secretary of State (re: Community Outreach Volunteers, NFP); Community Outreach Volunteers, NFP, c/o Tonny Lumu; Tina Marie Taylor; Internal Revenue Service; United States Attorney General - U.S. Department of Justice; United States of America, c/o U.S. Attorney; City of Chicago; HSBC Finance Corporation (successor to Household Finance Corporation III), c/o CT Corporation System; Judgment Creditors, And Decree Creditors, If Any Of The Above Described As "Unknown Owners"; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Parties In Occupancy Or Actual Possession Of Said Property; Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2022 COTD 001593 FILED: December 9, 2022 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: February 25, 2022 Certificate No. 21S-0006561 Sold for General Taxes of: 2021 Scavenger Sale (2007-2018) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 11402 S. CHURCH STREET, CHICAGO, IL Legal Description or Property Index No. 25-19-224-043-0000 Vol. 464 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on June 9, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before June 9, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on June 23, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before June 9, 2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 Judd M. Harris #55136 933 West Van Buren St. Suite 304 Chicago, IL 60607 312-795-9600 harrislaw@sbcglobal.net Verity Investments LLC Series 3, purchaser or assignee Dated: January 15, 2023
1/24, 1/25, 1/26/20237363407

TO: James Broder; City of Chicago, c/o City Clerk; Judgment Creditors, And Decree Creditors, If Any Of The Above Described As "Unknown Owners"; Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk; Parties In Occupancy Or Actual Possession Of Said Property; Unknown Owners Or Persons Interested In Said Land Or Lot. TAX DEED NO. 2022 COTD 001592 FILED: December 9, 2022 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold: February 25, 2022 Certificate Nos. 21S-0006562 & 21S-0006563 Sold for General Taxes of: 2021 Scavenger Sale (2006-2018) Sold For Special Assessment of (Municipality) Not Applicable. And Special Assessment No. Not Applicable. Warrant No. Not Applicable. Inst. No. Not Applicable. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Properties located at: 11605 S. CHURCH ST, CHICAGO, IL and 11607 S. CHURCH ST., CHICAGO, IL Legal Description or Property Index Nos. 25-19-405-002-0000 and 25-19-405-003-0000 Vol. 464 This notice is to advise you that the above properties have been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on June 9, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the properties from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before June 9, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois on June 23, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before June 9, 2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Address: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: (312) 603-5645 Judd M. Harris #55136 933 West Van Buren St. Suite 304 Chicago, IL 60607 312-795-9600 harrislaw@sbcglobal.net Brittany N. Dochee, purchaser or assignee Dated: January 15, 2023
1/24, 1/25, 1/26/20237363421

TO: Fifth Third Bank, John S. Mykleby R.A. Dorado Group, LLC, Raymond H. Groble III R.A. Collateral Trustee, Inc., Anthony R. Tablia R.A. R.W. Collins Co., John Powen R.A. JTA Development, Inc., John Powen JTA Development, Inc. President, Occupant, Unknown Owners and Interested Parties, Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk TAX DEED NO. 2022COTD001439 FILED 11/3/2022 TAKE NOTICE County of: Cook Date Premises Sold: February 15, 2022 Certificate No.: 21S-0001148 Sold for General Taxes of: 2013-2018 Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) N/A and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A Inst. No. N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 12357 S Ashland Avenue, Calumet Park, IL 60827 Legal Description or Property Index No.: 25-29-300-003-0000 Vol. 036 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on May 15, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6-month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before May 15, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, Illinois 60602 on May 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before May 15, 2023, by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Room 434, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk: Address: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL Telephone: 312-603-5645 Village of Calumet Park Purchaser or Assignee Dated: 1/18/2023
1/24, 1/25, 1/26/20237365209

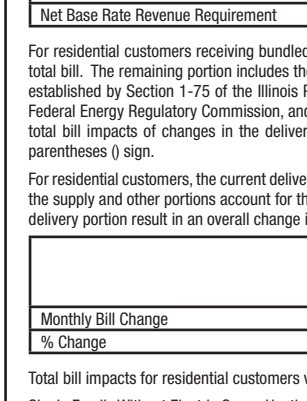
TO: Chicago Title Land Trust Company Successor Trustee to Old National Bank as successor Trustee to Bridgeview Bank & Trust as Trustee u/t/n 1-2542 dated May 7, 1997 c/o CT Corporation System, Cole Taylor 68267700, Command Prop, Occupant, Unknown Owners and Interested Parties, Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk TAX DEED NO. 2022COTD001438 FILED 11/3/2022 TAKE NOTICE County of: Cook Date Premises Sold: February 15, 2022 Certificate No.: 21S-0001149 and 21S-0001150 Sold for General Taxes of: 2002-2018 Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) N/A and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A Inst. No. N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 12301 S. Laflin Street, Calumet Park, Illinois Legal Description or Property Index No.: 25-29-301-011-0000 Vol. 036 25-29-301-012-0000 Vol. 036 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on May 15, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6-month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before May 15, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, Illinois 60602 on May 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before May 15, 2023, by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Room 434, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk: Address: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL Telephone: 312-603-5645 Village of Calumet Park Purchaser or Assignee Dated: 1/18/2023
1/24, 1/25, 1/26/20237365211

TO: Alan J. Kubicki, D&A Auto Sales, Inc. c/o Illinois Secretary of State, Occupant, Unknown Owners and Interested Parties, Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk TAX DEED NO. 2022COTD001440 FILED 11/3/2022 TAKE NOTICE County of: Cook Date Premises Sold: February 15, 2022 Certificate No.: 21S-0001156 Sold for General Taxes of: 2006-2018 Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) N/A and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A Inst. No. N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 1300 W 127th Street, Calumet Park, IL 60827 Legal Description or Property Index No.: 25-29-326-067-0000 Vol. 036 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on May 15, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6-month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before May 15, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, Illinois 60602 on May 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before May 15, 2023, by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Room 434, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk: Address: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL Telephone: 312-603-5645 Village of Calumet Park Purchaser or Assignee Dated: 1/18/2023
1/24, 1/25, 1/26/20237365214

TO: David L. Anders R.A. Rembrandt Builders, LLC, Terry Sullivan, Rembrandt Builders, LLC Old National Bank Successor to First Midwest Bank, Occupant, Unknown Owners and Interested Parties, Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk TAX DEED NO. 2022COTD001444 FILED 11/3/2022 TAKE NOTICE County of: Cook Date Premises Sold: February 15, 2022 Certificate No.: 21S-0001164 Sold for General Taxes of: 2008-2018 Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) N/A and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A Inst. No. N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 12333 S Peoria Street, Calumet Park, IL 60827 Legal Description or Property Index No.: 25-29-406-017-0000 Vol. 036 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on May 15, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6-month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before May 15, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, Illinois 60602 on May 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before May 15, 2023, by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Room 434, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk: Address: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL Telephone: 312-603-5645 Village of Calumet Park Purchaser or Assignee Dated: 1/18/2023
1/24, 1/25, 1/26/20237365218

TO: David L. Anders R.A. Rembrandt Builders, LLC, Terry Sullivan, Rembrandt Builders, LLC Old National Bank Successor to First Midwest Bank, Occupant, Unknown Owners and Interested Parties, Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk TAX DEED NO. 2022COTD001441 FILED 11/3/2022 TAKE NOTICE County of: Cook Date Premises Sold: February 15, 2022 Certificate No.: 21S-0001165 Sold for General Taxes of: 2008-2018 Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) N/A and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A Inst. No. N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 12345 S Peoria Street, Calumet Park, IL 60827 Legal Description or Property Index No.: 25-29-406-018-0000 Vol. 036 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on May 15, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6-month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before May 15, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, Illinois 60602 on May 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before May 15, 2023, by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Room 434, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk: Address: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL Telephone: 312-603-5645 Village of Calumet Park Purchaser or Assignee Dated: 1/18/2023
1/24, 1/25, 1/26/20237365219

TO: .L.R. Incorporated c/o Illinois Secretary of State, A.R.L. Incorporated c/o Illinois Secretary of State, Diamond Mortgage Corporation of Illinois c/o Illinois Secretary of State, ARL Inc., Al J. Echols, Occupant, Unknown Owners and Interested Parties, Karen A. Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk TAX DEED NO. 2022COTD001442 FILED 11/3/2022 TAKE NOTICE County of: Cook Date Premises Sold: February 15, 2022 Certificate No.: 21S-0001168 Sold for General Taxes of: 2001-2018 Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) N/A and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A Inst. No. N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 12341 S Green Street, Calumet Park, IL 60827 Legal Description or Property Index No.: 25-29-407-059-0000 Vol. 036 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on May 15, 2023. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6-month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before May 15, 2023. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in Room 1704, Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, Illinois 60602 on May 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before May 15, 2023, by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Room 434, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk: Address: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, IL Telephone: 312-603-5645 Village of Calumet Park Purchaser or Assignee Dated: 1/18/2023
1/24, 1/25, 1/26/20237365225



LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Proposed Change in Schedule

To patrons of Commonwealth Edison Company:

Commonwealth Edison Company ("ComEd") hereby gives notice to the public that on January 17, 2023, it filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission ("ICC" or "Commission") proposed changes in its rates and charges for delivery services throughout ComEd's service territory in northern Illinois to be applicable for the monthly billing periods inclusive of January 2024 through December 2027, pursuant to Section 16-108.18 of the Illinois Public Utilities Act (the "Act").

As provided in Section 16-108.18 of the Act, the proposed delivery service charges for each year of the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Rate Plan ("MRP") periods are determined from ComEd's reasonable and prudent costs of service over the term of the plan. Those expected costs result in the following delivery service revenue requirements (in $1,000) on which new delivery services rates are determined for the MRP period including the 2024 deferred rate phase-in amount which will be recovered in 2026 in the annual adjustment proceeding to reconcile revenue requirements:

$ in 000s	2024	2025	2026	2027
Base Rate Revenue Requirement	$3,757,912	$3,932,500	$4,149,156	$4,351,935
Less Deferred Rate Phase-in Amount	($306,995)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Net Base Rate Revenue Requirement	$3,450,917	$3,932,500	$4,149,156	$4,351,935

For residential customers receiving bundled fixed price electric service from ComEd, the delivery services charges are only a portion of the total bill. The remaining portion includes the cost of the electricity supply and other services, which are subject to the procurement process established by Section 1-75 of the Illinois Power Agency Act and the provisions of Section 16-111.5 of the Act and/or to regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and other charges such as taxes. Using the current cost for such other components, the estimated total bill impacts of changes in the delivery component for the 2024-2027 MRP period are provided herein. Decreases are denoted by parentheses () sign.

For residential customers, the current delivery portion of electric bills represents approximately 39% of the total electric bill, on average, while the supply and other portions account for the remaining 61%. Using current electricity supply and other charges, the proposed rates for the delivery portion result in an overall change in the total residential bills, on average, of approximately:

	2024 With Phase-In Reduction	2025	2026 With Phase-In Addition	2027
Monthly Bill Change	$6.72	$5.73	$6.20	($1.67)
% Change	7.2%	5.7%	5.9%	(1.5%)

Total bill impacts for residential customers vary by delivery class and electric usage:

Single Family Without Electric Space Heating (forecasted 715 kWh per month)

	2024 With Phase-In Reduction	2025	2026 With Phase-In Addition	2027
Monthly Bill Change	$8.19	$7.16	$7.72	($1.88)
% Change	7.9%	6.4%	6.5%	(1.5%)

Multi Family Without Electric Space Heating (forecasted 344 kWh per month)

	2024 With Phase-In Reduction	2025	2026 With Phase-In Addition	2027
Monthly Bill Change	$4.15	$3.23	$3.50	($1.21)
% Change	8.1%	5.8%	6.0%	(2.0%)

Single Family With Electric Space Heating (forecasted 1,572 kWh per month)

	2024 With Phase-In Reduction	2025	2026 With Phase-In Addition	2027
Monthly Bill Change	$9.07	$7.79	$8.37	($2.02)
% Change	5.3%	4.4%	4.5%	(1.0%)

Multi Family With Electric Space Heating (forecasted 779 kWh per month)

	2024 With Phase-In Reduction	2025	2026 With Phase-In Addition	2027
Monthly Bill Change	$5.24	$4.10	$4.49	($1.35)
% Change	6.0%	4.4%	4.6%	(1.3%)

ComEd does not estimate total bill impacts for residential customers supplied by Retail Electric Suppliers.

The proposed delivery service rates for nonresidential customers in the Watt-Hour and Small Load delivery classes (100 kilowatts ("kW") or less of demand), with varying usages result in overall average percentage changes for the total bill over the MRP period:

	2024 With Phase-In Reduction	2025	2026 With Phase-In Addition	2027
Watt-Hour	7.0%	5.0%	5.1%	(1.8%)
Small Load	3.4%	3.9%	4.0%	(1.2%)

Nonresidential customers with larger electric loads (greater than 100 kW) have a wide range of elect

CHICAGO ACCUWEATHER

Meteorologists Phil Schwarz, Cheryl Scott, Tracy Butler, Larry Mowry and Greg Dutra

ABC7 Outlook: Limited sun and seasonably chilly. Snow will fall Wednesday with 1 to 4 inches expected. The highest amounts will be in the southern suburbs.

	Day	Night
TUESDAY	High: **37**	Low: **32**
	Low clouds	
	POP: **0%**	
	Winds: **SW 6-12 mph**	
WEDNESDAY	High: **35**	Low: **28**
	Becoming windier with snow, 1-3"	
	POP: **95%**	
	Winds: **NE 12-25 mph**	
THURSDAY	High: **31**	Low: **21**
	A morning flurry; otherwise, cloudy	
	POP: **40%**	
	Winds: **NW 8-16 mph**	
FRIDAY	High: **33**	Low: **24**
	Cloudy and breezy; afternoon snow showers	
	POP: **60%**	
	Winds: **SSW 10-20 mph**	
SATURDAY	High: **28**	Low: **23**
	Cloudy with afternoon flurries	
	POP: **55%**	
	Winds: **NNW 6-12 mph**	
SUNDAY	High: **24**	Low: **15**
	Cloudy and chilly with a bit of snow	
	POP: **55%**	
	Winds: **NE 12-25 mph**	

CHICAGO FORECAST

Tuesday Conditions

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m.

AccuWeather.com UV Index™

0	1	1	1	0	0	0

RealFeel Temperature®

25	30	32	36	33	31	31

Tuesday Activities

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m.

Outdoor Activities Index

2	3	3	4	3	2	2

Fishing Index

0	3	3	1	0	0	0

The higher the **AccuWeather.com UV Index** number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. **0-2** Low, **3-5** Moderate, **6-7** High, **8-10** Very High, **11+** Extreme. The patented **AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature** is an exclusive index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors. **Outdoor Activities and Fishing Indexes: 0-2**: Poor; **3-4**: Fair; **5-6**: Good; **7-8**: Very Good; **9-10**: Excellent.

CHICAGO ALMANAC

Monday Temperatures

O'Hare through 4 p.m.

High	30
Low	21
Normal high	31
Normal low	18
Record high	65 (1909)
Record low	-18 (1963)

Local Temperatures

through 6 p.m. Monday

Location	Hi	Lo	Normal Hi	Normal Lo
Aurora	28	21	30	14
Gary	32	23	33	19
Kankakee	35	25	32	15
Lansing	32	23	32	17
Midway	31	22	32	19
Romeoville	30	23	31	15
Valparaiso	31	24	34	18
Waukegan	30	19	30	15

Monday Precipitation

	2023	2022	Normal
Monday*	0.02"	0.24"	0.06"
Month to date	2.01"	0.63"	1.53"
Year to date	2.01"	0.63"	1.53"
Snowfall			
Monday*	Trace	2.2"	0.4"
Month to date	1.9"	8.4"	8.1"
Season to date	6.2"	10.3"	17.7"

*24-hour period ending 4 p.m. Monday

Air Quality Index

Monday's reading: **Moderate**

Tuesday's forecast: **Moderate**

Primary pollutant: **Particulates**

Source: AirNow.gov

Sun and Moon

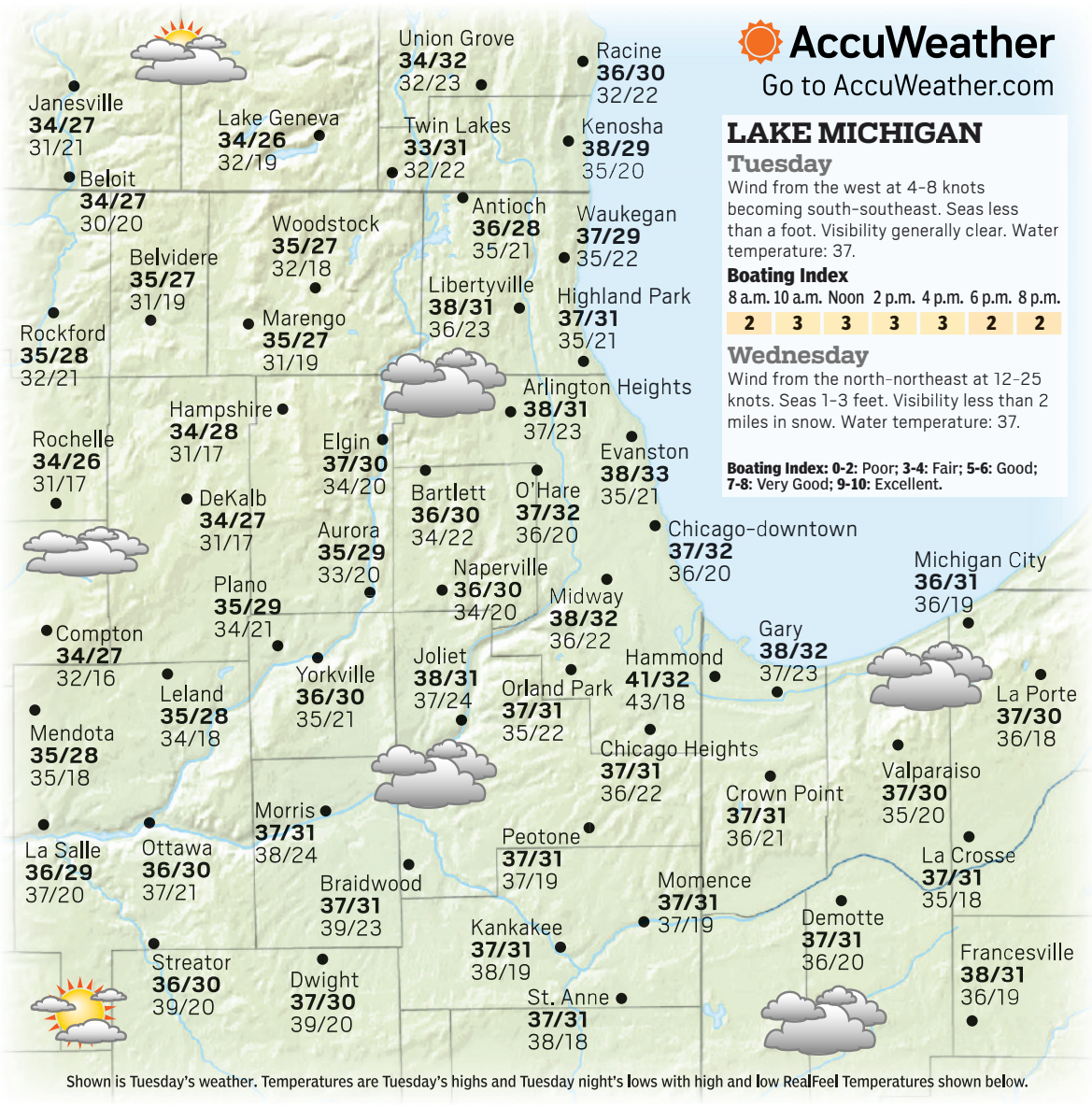
	Tue.	Wed.
Sunrise	7:11 a.m.	7:10 a.m.
Sunset	4:55 p.m.	4:56 p.m.
Moonrise	9:20 a.m.	9:45 a.m.
Moonset	8:38 p.m.	9:52 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Jan 28	Feb 5	Feb 13	Feb 20

Tuesday's Planet Watch

	Rise	Set
Mercury	5:37 a.m.	3:03 p.m.
Venus	8:23 a.m.	6:47 p.m.
Mars	12:25 p.m.	3:45 a.m.
Jupiter	9:48 a.m.	10:00 p.m.
Saturn	8:16 a.m.	6:36 p.m.

Best viewing times today: Venus: 6:05 p.m. Mars: 6:05 p.m. Jupiter: 6:05 p.m. Saturn: 6:05 p.m. Mercury: 6:40 a.m.



Shown is Tuesday's weather. Temperatures are Tuesday's highs and Tuesday night's lows with high and low RealFeel Temperatures shown below.

AccuWeather

Go to AccuWeather.com

LAKE MICHIGAN

Tuesday

Wind from the west at 4-8 knots becoming south-southeast. Seas less than a foot. Visibility generally clear. Water temperature: 37.

Boating Index

8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.	8 p.m.
2	3	3	3	3	2	2

Wednesday

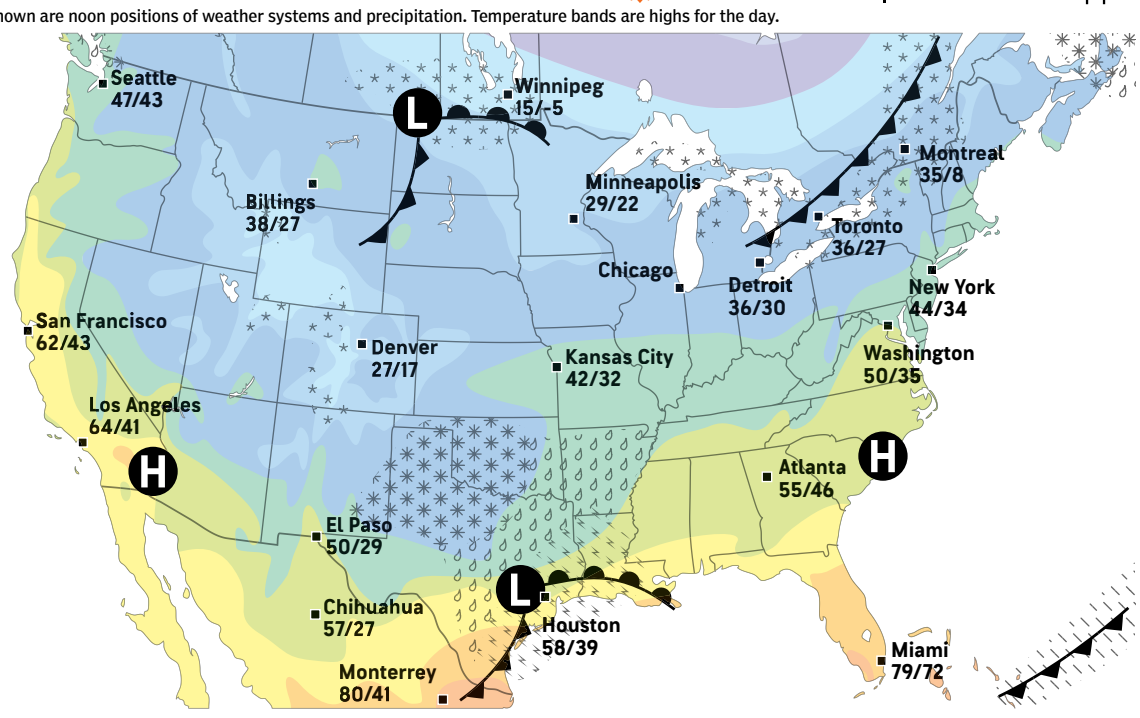
Wind from the north-northeast at 12-25 knots. Seas 1-3 feet. Visibility less than 2 miles in snow. Water temperature: 37.

Boating Index: 0-2: Poor; **3-4**: Fair; **5-6**: Good; **7-8**: Very Good; **9-10**: Excellent.

NATIONAL FORECAST

AccuWeather | Discover our app

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



ASK abc7

QUESTION: Looks like the above-average temperature streak might end Friday. Close to a record?

Steve I. Elk Grove Village

ANSWER: Counting Monday, we have gone 26 straight days where the average daily temperature has been at or above normal. While this is a pretty impressive streak, it is no where near a record. The last time we had a longer stretch of warmer-than-normal days was from Dec. 10, 2006, to Jan. 15, 2007: a stretch of some 37 days! The longest string of days that were warmer than normal since 1990 happened from Dec. 23, 2005, until Feb. 7, 2006. That's 47 straight days with above-normal temperatures.

Do you have a weather question for the ABC 7 team? Submit them at **abc7chicago.com/weather** or send them to:

Ask ABC 7 Weather Team
190 N. State Street
Chicago, IL 60601

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Tue. Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Illinois		
Carbondale	46/32/c	36/29/sn
Champaign	40/31/c	35/25/sn
Decatur	41/32/c	35/27/sn
Moline	37/27/pc	35/27/sn
Peoria	38/32/pc	33/27/sn
Quincy	39/31/pc	34/25/sn
Rockford	35/28/c	36/27/sn
Springfield	41/31/c	35/27/sn
Sterling	35/29/c	35/28/sn
Indiana		
Bloomington	44/33/pc	36/30/sn
Evansville	47/35/c	37/30/c
Fort Wayne	36/31/c	34/26/sn
Indianapolis	41/33/pc	35/29/sn
Lafayette	40/33/c	35/27/sn
South Bend	38/31/c	35/29/sn
Wisconsin		
Green Bay	33/20/c	29/19/c
Kenosha	38/29/c	36/24/sn
La Crosse	34/25/pc	31/20/sf
Madison	33/25/c	32/23/sn
Milwaukee	38/29/pc	36/26/sn
Wausau	30/19/c	29/17/c
Michigan		
Detroit	36/30/c	34/27/sn
Grand Rapids	36/29/c	34/26/sn
Marquette	25/14/sn	26/16/c
Sault Ste. Marie	29/13/c	26/11/c
Traverse City	34/26/sn	33/25/sn
Iowa		
Ames	30/23/pc	30/16/c
Cedar Rapids	32/25/c	32/23/sn
Des Moines	34/25/pc	29/17/c
Dubuque	32/25/pc	32/24/sn

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Tue. Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Abilene	36/29/sn	44/23/pc
Albany, NY	37/22/c	33/30/sn
Albuquerque	40/21/pc	38/18/s
Amarillo	33/23/sn	40/17/pc
Anchorage	40/33/c	37/33/sn
Asheville	51/33/s	51/34/t
Aspen	23/6/sf	20/-1/sf
Atlanta	55/46/pc	63/37/r
Atlantic City	46/32/pc	50/43/r
Austin	56/37/r	56/33/s
Baltimore	50/32/pc	46/40/r
Billings	38/27/c	37/28/c
Birmingham	56/48/pc	53/35/c
Bismarck	31/12/c	24/12/c
Boise	35/22/pc	38/24/pc
Boston	42/28/pc	37/34/sn
Brownsville	80/48/t	68/46/s
Buffalo	36/28/sf	34/28/sn
Burlington, VT	37/17/sn	30/28/sn
Charleston, SC	59/46/s	70/44/t
Charleston, WV	45/30/pc	51/34/r
Charlotte	55/41/s	55/37/t
Chattanooga	54/43/pc	57/38/r
Cheyenne	25/16/pc	24/16/c
Cincinnati	44/33/pc	40/30/sn
Cleveland	35/31/c	37/29/sn
Colorado Spgs	32/18/pc	31/10/sn
Columbia, MO	44/32/c	37/23/sn
Columbia, SC	58/38/s	66/39/t
Columbus, OH	38/29/c	40/31/sn
Concord	38/10/pc	29/28/sn
Corpus Christi	73/42/t	68/41/s
Dallas	42/33/r	46/33/c
Daytona Beach	72/62/c	84/52/pc
Denver	27/17/pc	28/14/sf
Duluth	24/19/pc	25/7/sf
El Paso	50/29/s	50/27/s
Fairbanks	5/-2/c	14/3/sn
Fargo	25/10/sn	15/1/c
Flagstaff	35/2/s	32/13/s
Fort Myers	80/66/pc	82/64/pc
Fort Smith	41/32/sn	41/28/c
Fresno	59/36/pc	60/37/pc
Grand Junction	36/22/pc	34/12/c
Great Falls	34/21/sn	35/25/sn
Harrisburg	45/32/pc	39/36/sn
Hartford	42/24/pc	36/31/sn
Helena, MT	31/22/c	32/26/c
Honolulu	81/66/sh	78/67/c
Houston	58/39/t	55/36/pc
Int'l Falls	20/15/c	24/-7/sf
Jackson, MS	55/43/t	47/35/c
Jacksonville	67/55/pc	80/46/t
Juneau	41/39/r	42/38/r
Kansas City	42/32/c	35/20/sn
Las Vegas	56/37/s	55/40/s
Lexington	46/36/pc	46/30/r
Lincoln	35/26/pc	30/17/c
Little Rock	45/36/r	45/31/c
Los Angeles	64/41/s	68/44/s
Louisville	49/37/pc	44/31/sn
Macon	59/45/pc	71/38/t
Memphis	51/38/sh	41/33/c
Miami	79/72/c	83/71/pc
Minneapolis	29/22/c	29/15/sf
Mobile	62/54/t	57/37/s
Montgomery	58/49/c	61/39/pc
Nashville	51/40/pc	50/37/sh
New Orleans	67/51/t	55/43/pc
New York City	44/34/pc	41/40/r
Norfolk	51/35/s	58/49/r
Oklahoma City	36/30/r	44/25/c
Omaha	37/23/c	29/16/c
Orlando	75/61/c	83/55/pc
Palm Beach	77/72/c	84/69/pc
Palm Springs	70/46/s	71/50/s
Philadelphia	46/32/pc	48/40/r
Phoenix	57/37/s	62/41/s
Pittsburgh	37/28/c	40/30/sn
Portland, ME	41/16/pc	30/27/c
Portland, OR	48/40/c	50/34/c
Providence	43/27/pc	37/33/r
Raleigh	56/36/s	62/42/t
Rapid City	44/26/c	35/22/sn
Reno	43/24/s	42/21/s
Richmond	53/32/s	55/41/r
Rochester	36/26/c	36/31/sn
Sacramento	58/33/s	61/34/s
St. Louis	45/33/c	38/29/sn
Salem, OR	49/38/c	51/33/c
Salt Lake City	34/24/pc	32/20/c
San Antonio	61/38/r	59/34/s
San Diego	64/42/s	65/48/s
San Francisco	62/43/s	63/46/s
San Juan	84/71/c	84/72/pc
Santa Fe	36/16/pc	30/9/sn
Savannah	60/49/pc	70/45/t
Seattle	47/43/c	48/38/c
Shreveport	47/37/r	44/33/c
Sioux Falls	28/21/pc	24/8/c
Spokane	32/26/c	35/28/c
Syracuse	37/26/sf	37/32/sn
Tallahassee	63/56/c	68/41/t
Tampa	76/65/c	79/56/t
Topeka	42/30/c	35/21/c
Tucson	55/31/s	61/32/s
Tulsa	39/29/r	42/25/c
Washington, DC	50/35/pc	45/41/r
Wichita	38/27/sn	39/23/c
Wilkes-Barre	37/26/pc	38/35/sn
Yuma	66/42/s	68/47/s

WORLD CITIES

City	Tue. Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Acapulco	86/68/s	85/68/s
Algiers	51/40/c	51/43/r
Amsterdam	37/29/c	39/38/c
Ankara	54/20/s	50/27/pc
Athens	62/51/pc	55/49/sh
Auckland	77/64/sh	78/62/pc
Baghdad	65/38/s	63/38/s
Bangkok	91/68/c	85/67/pc
Barbados	83/75/pc	84/75/pc
Barcelona	47/38/r	56/36/s
Beijing	25/3/s	27/8/pc
Beirut	68/56/s	68/55/s
Berlin	36/29/c	37/31/c
Bermuda	67/59/pc	67/62/c
Bogota	68/47/r	68/46/pc
Brussels	37/29/c	35/30/c
Bucharest	37/31/c	37/27/c
Budapest	48/29/c	42/30/c
Bueno Aires	90/71/pc	81/73/pc
Cairo	72/52/s	71/51/s
Cancun	83/76/s	84/70/sh
Caracas	87/72/pc	87/72/s
Casablanca	60/33/s	60/35/s
Copenhagen	38/33/c	38/35/c
Dublin	51/46/c	50/36/sh
Edmonton	36/22/sn	35/33/i
Frankfurt	39/33/c	40/29/c
Geneva	39/31/c	40/30/c
Guadalajara	79/40/pc	81/41/s
Havana	87/64/s	85/65/s
Helsinki	34/33/sf	39/35/sh
Hong Kong	62/48/c	60/55/pc
Istanbul	48/42/c	46/40/c
Jerusalem	64/45/s	62/43/s
Johannesburg	86/62/s	82/56/t
Kabul	31/9/s	31/8/s
Kingston	89/75/s	87/75/pc
Kyiv	32/24/c	33/25/c
Lima	77/68/pc	77/68/pc
Lisbon	53/37/s	54/39/s
London	43/29/pc	45/35/c
Madrid	45/25/s	51/30/s
Manila	88/75/pc	85/75/c
Mexico City	79/44/pc	78/44/s
Monterrey	80/41/pc	69/40/c
Montreal	35/8/sn	17/13/sn
Moscow	34/24/c	36/29/c
Munich	35/30/c	34/27/c
Nairobi	80/60/pc	83/60/pc
Nassau	81/69/pc	83/70/s
New Delhi	70/56/sh	71/55/t
Oslo	35/33/c	41/30/c
Ottawa	34/9/sn	17/13/sn
Panama City	90/74/t	89/74/t
Paris	39/33/c	38/31/c
Prague	35/31/c	35/27/c
Rio de Janeiro	85/78/r	87/76/pc
Riyadh	66/52/pc	60/53/sh
Rome	53/35/c	55/36/c
Santiago	88/59/s	86/54/s
Seoul	16/-2/s	24/12/s
Singapore	85/75/r	81/75/r
Sofia	39/32/r	38/27/c
Stockholm	39/37/c	43/33/sh
Sydney	81/70/pc	83/71/s
Taipei	56/45/c	57/52/c
Tehran	43/31/s	41/29/s
Tokyo	53/27/sh	37/31/s
Toronto	36/27/c	33/23/sn
Trinidad	84/72/pc	85/73/pc
Vancouver	45/38/r	46/38/c
Vienna	38/32/c	38/31/c
Warsaw	38/30/c	34/30/c
Winnipeg	15/-5/sn	10/1/s

Weather(W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **r**-rain, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice. **POP:** Probability of Precipitation.

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INSIDE NATION & WORLD • ARTS & LIVING Plus TV, comics and puzzles

Chicago Tribune
BUSINESS

CNH workers approve new deal

Have been on strike since May in Wis. and Iowa

By Josh Funk
Chicago Tribune

More than 1,000 CNH Industrial workers who have been on strike since last May approved a new contract Saturday with the maker of tractors, bulldozers, backhoes and other heavy equipment.

The United Auto Workers said union members in Racine, Wisconsin, and Burlington, Iowa, approved the deal two weeks after they rejected an earlier agreement.

The union didn't didn't disclose any details of what is included in the contract.

A spokeswoman for CNH Industrial didn't immediately respond Sunday to questions about the new agreement.

Previously, the company said the last offer that workers rejected included raises of 28% to 38% over four years.

"This agreement reflects the effort of a determined bargaining team and members being on an almost nine-month strike," UAW President Ray Curry said in a statement.

Throughout the strike, workers fought for raises that would help cover soaring inflation and wouldn't be consumed by increases in health insurance costs.

Before the walkout started last May 2, workers rejected a deal with 18.5% raises because of those concerns.

"Our negotiators tenaciously bargained to the very end, even fighting for contract improvements in the face of threats from CNHI to hire permanent strike replacements," UAW Vice President Chuck Browning said. "Combined with the incredible support from our members, it's remarkable what had to be endured to achieve this contract."

With more than 37,000 employees worldwide, CNH Industrial has continued to produce construction and agricultural equipment throughout the strike and worked to keep its Wisconsin and Iowa plants running. The company, which is based in the United Kingdom, said its third-quarter profits jumped 22% to $559 million. It is set to release its next earnings report in early February.

The CNH strike was one of the longest ones in the recent spate of strikes since the pandemic.

Workers at a variety of companies have been demanding and getting significant raises and better benefits amid widespread worker shortages. New unions have been established at Starbucks stores and Amazon warehouses, although some locations have rejected unions.

More than 10,000 Deere & Co. workers secured 10% raises and improved benefits after their monthlong strike in 2021 at another agricultural equipment maker.

In one of the highest-profile labor disputes of the past year, more than 100,000 railroad workers received 24% raises and $5,000 in bonuses in a five-year deal after Congress stepped in and blocked a potential strike because of fears about the economic consequences. Even with the raises, many rail workers remain frustrated with the deal that was imposed on them because it didn't resolve their quality-of-life concerns about demanding schedules and the lack of paid sick time.

Baristas Elise Vazquez, left, Aspen Schucker, center, and Payton Carlson after a unionization vote Monday in the Gold Coast. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

La Colombe baristas vote to create union

Election was unanimous at Gold Coast coffee shop

By Talia Soglin
Chicago Tribune

Baristas at La Colombe's Gold Coast cafe voted 12-0 to unionize Monday, joining the steady drip of coffee shop unionizations that have taken hold in Chicago over the last year.

The Gold Coast baristas are the first La Colombe coffee shop workers in Chicago to unionize; their vote comes after employees at one of the company's D.C. locations voted to unionize in December, according to labor board records. Baristas at four of La Colombe's five Chicago cafes have filed for union elections with the United Food and Commercial Workers International Local 881, which also represents grocery workers at Jewel-Osco and Mariano's grocery stores.

Aspen Schucker, a barista at the 4 E. Elm St. cafe, said workers there unionized because they want higher pay and more of a say in staffing, scheduling and other day-to-day operations at the coffee shop.

"Regardless of who we are, where we come from, where we live and what we do, we all deserve to make enough money to live here," Schucker said. "And that's not happening."

Schucker, 20, said baristas at La Colombe in Chicago make between $16 and $18 an hour, plus tips. Schucker said the company increased prices over the last year, but that he is taking home less money per paycheck because of a decrease in tips, despite receiving a 50-cent per hour raise. Other baristas at the cafe did not receive raises, he said.

In a statement Monday, La Colombe said it respected the Gold Coast baristas' decision to be represented by UFCW.

"While the results of the vote still need to be certified by the National Labor Relations Board, we firmly believe in a people-first work environment and are committed to making each La Colombe team member feel appreciated, respected, and supported," the company said

On Tuesday, baristas at La Colombe's location at 955 W. Randolph St. in the West Loop will vote on whether or not to unionize, according to a union representative. Elections for two more locations, at 858 Armitage Ave. and at 5158 N. Clark St. are scheduled to take place next week. Baristas at the company's Wicker Park location have not moved to unionize.

National Labor Relations Board spokesperson Kayla Blado confirmed Monday's vote count. Each party has five business days to file objections to the election, she said. If no objections are filed, La Colombe must begin bargaining in good faith with the union.

La Colombe baristas said Monday they were inspired by union efforts at other coffee shops. Workers at about 10 area Starbucks have voted to unionize since last January. Colectivo Coffee and Intelligentsia Coffee workers in Chicago are unionized with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Intelligentsia baristas ratified their first collective bargaining agreement at the end of last year.

"I think I speak for everyone unionizing at La Colombe that we aren't just thinking about ourselves, but we're thinking about a much larger movement," said Elise Vazquez, a barista at La Colombe.

In addition to D.C. and Chicago, La Colombe has cafe locations in New York, Philadelphia, California, Boston and Austin, Texas. The company also sells coffee beans, cold brew and canned lattes in grocery stores and other retail locations.

Runway plans taking off for Waukegan National Airport

'This will keep the airport viable for the next 50 years'

By Steve Sadin
For News-Sun

Motorists driving on Green Bay Road just north of Yorkhouse Road in Waukegan are used to seeing airplanes flying in and out of Waukegan National Airport. In a few years, they will be driving under the runway as jets take off overhead.

A new, longer runway is a goal airport officials have sought for several years, and which is now getting closer to taking off itself as studies and negotiations are underway leading to potential approval by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Airport officials and their partners are currently completing an environmental assessment for release this spring, leading to a public hearing by the FAA this summer and approval from the agency by the end of the year so detailed planning for the project can begin.

Skip Goss, the airport's general manager, said he anticipates the first shovel in the ground in 2026 on the $186 million construction of a 7,000-foot runway. It will run parallel to the existing 6,000-foot runway, keeping the airport open during the three years of construction.

"The runway is at the end of its useful life," Goss said. "It can't meet current FAA code. This will keep the airport viable for the next 50 years. The new one will have a runway safety area 1,000 feet from each end in case of overruns. We don't have that now."

Goss said he anticipates the project will start in 2026 at about the same time the Illinois Department of Transportation begins its widening effort of Green Bay Road. The road will dip where it approaches the airport as planes go over the bridge as part of their landing or takeoff.

"The runway will go over Green Bay Road," Goss said. "Now the runway ends at the fence."

Finding space for the new runway and safety zone at each end requires more land. Goss said the Waukegan Port District, which owns the airport, plans to purchase about 52 acres from the Lake County Forest Preserves District in the Waukegan Savannah southwest of the airport.

Angelo Kyle, the president of the forest preserves district, said airport officials will oversee environmental improvements to the forest preserve land it will acquire. Those changes benefit the entire area, he said.

"Improving the environment is a litmus test for everything we do," Kyle said. "We wouldn't agree without it. It's one of the first things we look at."

Once the land is transferred to the port district, Goss said the savanna area will be returned to its natural state. A trail will be built as part of a path connecting the Des Plaines River Trail to the pathways in the northeast parts of Lake County.

"We're going to clear the invasive species like the buckthorn and add natural plantings to return it to its natural savanna state," Goss said.

Once FAA approval is secured, the port district will buy the forest preserve land along with 34 other properties and six businesses. Goss said the nearby property and business owners are aware of the acquisition plans.

Of the $186 million needed to complete the project, Goss said the money will come from federal and state funds, as well as airport user fees. The port district has never levied taxes on residents.

Goss said the new runway will not significantly alter the airport's function or use, with approximately 80% propeller-driven planes and 20% jets. There are around 20,500 takeoffs and landings a year. There will be no passenger or cargo service. Noise levels will remain similar.

Not everyone is a fan of the project.

Former Waukegan Mayor Bill Morris said he would rather see the resources go toward improvements for Waukegan's public schools and the city's capital projects, instead of enabling "nonstop flights to Asia."

"This is misguided," he said. "This money should be spent on the future of our children and their educational projects. This is taking 52 acres of land out of (our) open space."

Morris said the money should come from the owners of the private jets. He also does not understand why Waukegan needs a longer runway than Chicago Midway Airport. Goss said Midway is landlocked. The length is what is now required by the FAA for safety.

Along with adding the new runway as a safety improvement, the project will continue to keep the airport a vital part of the Lake County business community, officials said. Waukegan Mayor Ann Taylor said in an email the airport is a financial benefit for the area.

"Our airport is a critical economic engine for Lake County and the greater Chicago area, generating an estimated $181 million in economic activity annually, supporting 900 jobs and providing valuable services for private, corporate, business, executive and government aircraft," she said.

Kyle said he also likes the economic benefits, along with the environmental and recreational ones. The airport brings travelers from around the country and across the world to the area.

"This benefits the forest preserves district and all of Lake County," Kyle said. "It's a huge economic shot in the arm for the county."

Kevin Considine, the president and CEO of Lake County Partners, said the airport helps small businesses as well as large corporations. Many of the county's Fortune 500 businesses keep jets there.

"It has a real impact economically," Considine said. "It helps first responders. The military uses it and there are two flight schools. If we're going to continue to be (economically) vibrant we have make sure we allow it to stay open."

IRS rolling out upgrades to boost customer service

Biden administration seeks to allay fears of more audits as tax season begins

By Alan Rappeport
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is working to improve customer service at the IRS as the 2023 tax season started Monday, a pivotal moment for an agency at the center of a political fight over $80 billion in additional funding it was awarded by Congress last year.

The IRS is racing to prepare 5,000 recently hired agents to answer the telephones and respond to questions from taxpayers. It is also rolling out new automated systems and staffing up its brick-and-mortar taxpayer assistance centers.

The upgrades are intended to highlight the initial impact of the money it received through last year's Inflation Reduction Act legislation and allay fears fanned by Republicans that the funds will be used to ramp up audits on middle-class Americans and small businesses.

"These improvements showcase how we are modernizing both technology and customer service to bring the IRS into the 21st century," Wally Adeyemo, the deputy Treasury secretary, said during a briefing with reporters.

The money comes as the IRS has struggled to perform its most basic responsibilities.

At the end of 2022, the agency still had a backlog of 9 million tax returns that needed to be processed. Only 13% of 173 million calls reached an IRS representative last year, and the average hold time was 29 minutes.

A report from the National Taxpayer Advocate this month expressed optimism that there was "light at the end of the tunnel" at the IRS but said that the agency continued to need major upgrades after years of neglect and funding cuts.

Treasury officials say that the IRS is trying to reduce the time that callers spend on hold with the agency to 15 minutes and that they are hopeful that enhanced automated systems and more staffing will make it easier for people to reach a representative.

The agency is also initiating plans to begin automatically scanning paper tax returns and rolling out a system to make it easier for taxpayers to respond to written notices from the IRS online rather than by mail.

At the request of Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, the IRS must produce a plan detailing how it intends to use the $80 billion by February.

Republicans have made scrutinizing the IRS a priority and passed legislation to rescind much of the $80 billion that it was allocated. They have seized on plans to beef up the agency's enforcement capacity to scare taxpayers about being audited.

President Joe Biden has pledged to veto any legislation that would roll back the IRS funding and accused Republicans of trying to make it easier for the rich to avoid paying taxes.

The Biden administration is also emphasizing the ways that it is aiming to make the agency more responsive and user-friendly.

"Our goal this tax season is to effectively and efficiently serve as many taxpayers as possible," Adeyemo said.

Brenda Ortega salvages items Jan. 10 from her flooded home in Merced, Calif., after the state was slammed by storms. **NOAH BERGER/AP**

Storms unleash financial hit

As trillions of gallons of rain and snow soaked California, few insured against flooding

By Michael Phillis and Adam Beam
Associated Press

ACAMPO, Calif. — On a recent morning, Kyle Starks woke up to floodwaters that reached the door of his Jeep after yet another heavy rain storm drenched California. Emergency crews showed up with boats to float Starks and other residents of his rural mobile home park in Acampo to safety.

Beyond the physical destruction, the storm could pack a financial hit: Starks does not have flood insurance.

"I didn't think it would flood this bad," he explained from an evacuation center, worried that water damaged wiring and air conditioning equipment.

In California, only about 230,000 homes and other buildings have flood insurance policies, which are separate from homeowners insurance.

That means only about 2% of properties are covered against flooding.

The federal government is the insurer for the bulk of them — about 191,000 as of December. Private insurers issued the rest, according to the most recent state data from 2021.

In California, 32 trillion gallons of rain and snow fell since Christmas. The water washed out roads, knocked out power and created mudslides by soaking wildfire-charred hills. It caused damage in 41 of the state's 58 counties.

At least 21 people have died.

It takes targeted study to know the role of climate change in specific weather, but warmer air means storms like the ones that deluged California in recent weeks can carry more water.

Yet California's drought has dulled people's sense of the risk of flooding. People usually buy insurance after disasters when the risk is visceral, said Amy Bach, the executive director of insurance consumers group United Policyholders.

"People think the only people that need flood insurance are people who live right on the beach or on the banks of a river that has a history of flooding," Bach said.

In reality, far more people are threatened by rushing or rising water.

When you buy a home, a key document will be official Federal Emergency Management Agency maps that tell you if it's in a high-risk flood zone. If it is and you have a federally backed mortgage, you are required to buy flood insurance that costs on average $950 a year. Many banks require it too.

Yet FEMA maps are limited and only take into account certain kinds of flooding. Flooding caused by heavy rains that back up storm drains is not counted, for example. The limitations mean flood risk is underestimated nationally. The maps particularly lowball the chance of disaster in California, according to Matthew Eby, executive director of First Street Foundation, a risk analysis organization.

The FEMA maps don't show Stark's mobile home in a high-risk area.

The storms damaged several thousand homes so badly they'll need to be repaired before people can live in them again.

But Nicholas Pinter, a professor at the University of California, Davis, who researches watersheds, said California needs to be prepared for even bigger events and that requires far more investment in flood defenses and more awareness of its danger.

"It is worrisome that there was as much damage as there was for what was extreme but not catastrophic flooding," he said.

Microsoft agrees to invest billions in OpenAI

By Matt O'Brien
Associated Press

Microsoft says it is making a "multiyear, multibillion-dollar investment" in the artificial intelligence startup OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT and other tools that can write readable text and generate new images.

The tech giant Monday described its new agreement as the third stage of a growing partnership with San Francisco-based OpenAI that began with a $1 billion investment in 2019.

The partnership positions Microsoft to sharpen its competition with Google in commercializing AI breakthroughs that could transform numerous professions, as well as the internet search business.

OpenAI's free writing tool ChatGPT launched Nov. 30 and has brought public attention to the possibilities of new advances in AI. It's part of a new generation of machine-learning systems that can converse, generate readable text on demand, and produce novel images and video based on what they've learned from a vast database of digital books, online writings and other media.

Microsoft's partnership enables it to capitalize on OpenAI's technology. Microsoft's supercomputers help power the startup's energy-hungry AI systems, while the Redmond, Washington-based tech giant will be able to further integrate OpenAI technology into Microsoft products.

"In this next phase of our partnership," said a statement from Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, customers who use Microsoft's Azure cloud computing platform will have access to new AI tools to build and run their applications.

OpenAI started as a nonprofit artificial intelligence research company when it launched in December 2015. The organization's stated aims were to "advance digital intelligence in the way that is most likely to benefit humanity as a whole, unconstrained by a need to generate financial return."

That changed in 2018 when it incorporated as a for-profit business Open AI LP, and shifted nearly all its staff into the business, not long after releasing its first generation of the GPT model for generating human-like paragraphs of readable text.

US closes the door on Ford's SUV odor probe

By Tom Krisher
Associated Press

DETROIT — The U.S. government's road safety agency has closed a more than six-year investigation into exhaust odors in Ford Explorer passenger cabins, determining that the SUVs don't have high levels of carbon monoxide and don't need to be recalled.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says it reviewed more than 6,500 complaints, tested SUVs in the field, and called in automotive, medical, environmental health and occupational safety experts before making the determination.

The probe covered nearly 1.5 million Explorers from the 2011 to 2017 model years. NHTSA said it received multiple complaints of sickness and crashes caused by the exhaust fumes that involved three deaths and 657 injuries. Many complaints came from police departments that used Explorer Police Interceptors as patrol vehicles.

But the agency said in documents released Monday that it used rigorous test methods to send exhaust gas into vehicles. No Explorers with bodies that were sealed under a 2017 Ford field service campaign had carbon monoxide levels that were higher than Environmental Protection Agency limits.

The agency, though, conceded that fumes had leaked into the Explorer cabins. "NHTSA recognizes that hypersensitivities to CO and other exhaust gas constituents exist within the overall population," investigators wrote. "However, the agency does not set limits or determine the adequacy of established safe levels."

In a statement Monday, Ford said it was pleased that the investigation found no unreasonable risk to vehicle safety. "Ford's previous investigation and extensive testing determined the same results, which we have always maintained," the company said.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Spotify to slash 6% of workforce

LONDON — Music streaming service Spotify said Monday that it's cutting 6% of its global workforce, or about 600 jobs, becoming yet another tech company forced to rethink its pandemic-era expansion as the economic outlook weakens.

CEO Daniel Ek announced the restructuring in a message to employees that was also posted online.

Big tech companies like Amazon, Microsoft and Google announced tens of thousands of job cuts this month as the economic boom that the industry rode during the COVID-19 pandemic waned.

Stockholm-based Spotify had benefited from pandemic lockdowns because more people had sought out entertainment when they were stuck at home.

NOAA rejects group's proposal

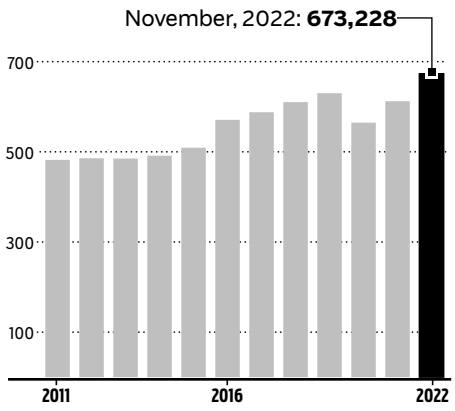
PORTLAND, Maine — The U.S. government has denied a request from a group of environmental organizations to immediately apply proposed ship-speed restrictions in an effort to save a vanishing species of whale that numbers less than 340.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering new rules designed to stop large ships from colliding with North Atlantic right whales.

The environmental groups had asked NOAA to implement pieces of the proposed rule that would aid the whales this winter and spring. The agency informed conservation groups Jan. 20 that it was denying the request because it is "focused on implementing long-term, substantive vessel strike risk reduction measures."

Airline employment

Employment at U.S. passenger airlines, scale in thousands of full-time equivalent jobs in November of each year



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics TNS

Working Lunch newsletter: Get the latest business news headlines, delivered to your inbox midday weekdays. Go to **chicagotribune.com/workinglunch**

Who's Who in Local Business: Have a promotion or hire you'd like to tell the world about? Go to **placeanad.chicagotribune.com/whos-who**

A woman and child look at a cellphone last June in Beijing. With the holiday week in China underway, kids get an extra hour to play online games each day. **MARK SCHIEFELBEIN/AP**

China relaxes online gaming rules for kids during holidays

By Zen Soo
Associated Press

HONG KONG — As the weeklong Lunar New Year holidays in China arrives with promises of feasts and red envelopes stuffed with cash, children have another thing to look forward to — one extra hour of online games each day.

Only one hour.

For years, Chinese authorities have sought to control how much time kids can spend playing games online, to fight "internet addiction." They've claimed success in curbing the problem but are taking no chances.

In 2019, authorities restricted minors to playing 90 minutes a day on weekdays and banned them from playing between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. In 2021, they issued even harsher restrictions: Minors are allowed to play online games for only an hour a day and only on Fridays, weekends and public holidays. Game approvals were halted for eight months.

The Lunar New Year holiday, China's biggest festival, is underway and ends on Friday.

Many parents have lauded the restrictions, even as their children threw tantrums. Social media and games companies set up or strengthened "youth mode" settings on their apps meant to protect minors. They include features that limit use, control payments and display age-appropriate content. For some popular games, real-name registration and even facial recognition gateways have been implemented.

In November — more than a year after the stricter game controls were introduced — a government-affiliated industry group, Game Industry Group Committee, issued a report declaring the gaming addiction problem among minors was "basically resolved," even as the three-hour weekly limit for Friday, Saturday and Sunday stayed in place.

Overall, the Game Industry Group's report said, more than 75% of minors in China played online games for less than three hours a week and most parents expressed satisfaction with the new restrictions.

A report by games market intelligence firm Niko Partners in September found youth gamers declined to 82.6 million in 2022 from their peak of 122 million in 2020 as a direct result of China's regulations.

Beijing resident Zhong Feifei said her 11-year-old daughter has spent less time on games since the restrictions came into effect.

"My daughter gave up playing online games during the prohibited time," Zhong said.

She has also encouraged her daughter to play with other children or spend time on other activities.

The Game Industry Group's report said the harsh restrictions have also spawned an underground market where minors can buy "cracked" games that are unsupervised or rent adult game accounts.

But Huang Yan, mother of a 12-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son in Beijing, said online gaming can foster teamwork and help children make friends.

"It's better to let them face these activities and intervene appropriately if they are unable to control themselves."

Bar owners not drinking any toasts to Dry January trend

By Alyson Krueger
The New York Times

BierWax in the Queens borough of New York closes for two nights each week this month as business slows because of Dry January. **JUAN ARREDONDO/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

NEW YORK — Yahaira Gil Maestro, a craft beer bar owner in New York City, supports the wellness goals of her customers."We know people want to start healthier habits, and we respect that," she said.

But as a business owner, she feels a bit more conflicted about Dry January, the voluntary month of sobriety that has become trendy in recent years.

Because so many of her customers stop drinking at the same time, the month is a collective financial drain for her. It also comes at a time when business is already slow because of cold weather and holiday fatigue.

"I'm willing to advocate for a dry June. Our business can better take the hit then," she said, laughing. "Or maybe people can take turns stopping to drink?"

She is an owner of BierWax, a bar known for its vinyl collection that has locations in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, including one that's been open for less than a year. In Queens, business has been so slow that Gil Maestro has had to let go of one bartender and reduce the hours of another, and to close on Mondays and Tuesdays this month.

Gil Maestro is also seeing less foot traffic at her Brooklyn location. Though it is still too early to know January sales numbers, she believes that they will be worse than last January when revenue at her Brooklyn location plummeted 17%.

According to Morning Consult, a data research company, 15% of American adults planned to participate in Dry January this year. While those temporarily going sober have great intentions — they are often looking after their health, their finances or both — the economic ramifications can loom large for small businesses.

While New York City bars have contended with Dry January for years, they are also continuing to navigate the fallout from the pandemic. Last year, omicron was raging in January. Bars closed because of outbreaks among workers, and so many people were sick — or scared of getting sick — that they stayed home, sober or not.

And this year, an ongoing "tripledemic" (flu; COVID-19; respiratory syncytial virus, known as RSV), along with economic uncertainty for many, continues to pose challenges. Morning Consult found that 73% of those embracing Dry January were forgoing alcohol to save money.

"There is always a slight seasonal downturn in January, but the situation has definitely been more fraught at this moment in time," said Zack Kinney, a founder of Kings County Brewers Collective, a brewery in the Bushwick neighborhood in Brooklyn. "There is still COVID, inflation is higher, people are more sensitive about spending money, all those things are contributing to the tight squeeze on top of Dry January."

Kinney estimated that beer sales were down 15% to 20% this month.

But Gary Clegg, a restaurant owner in East Harlem, appreciates Dry January, and he is committed to it himself. His solution? To close his New American spot, Alison, for the first two weeks in January — a slow time anyway, he said.

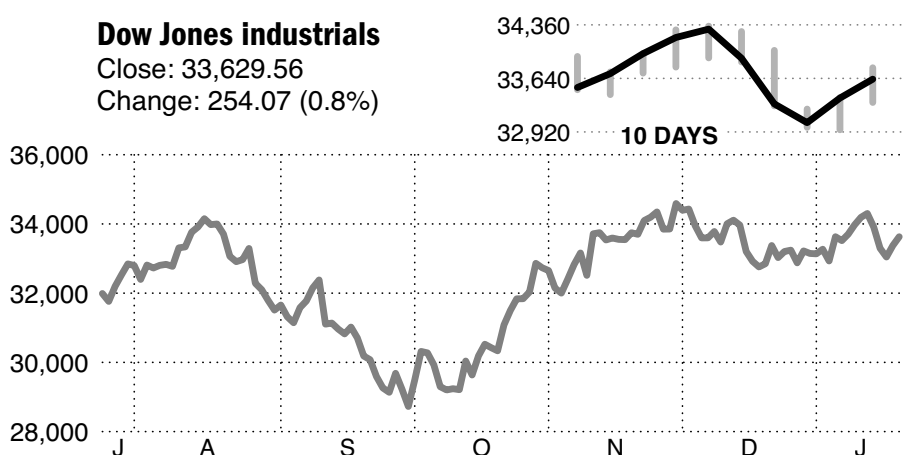
"January is a good time to reset," he said. "It's good for us to have this break so we can also focus on our healthy habits."

But for those in the industry who are frustrated with the month, Katie Kennedy, the head bartender at Contento, a Peruvian restaurant in Harlem, has some good news: Not everyone is staying 100% loyal to Dry January.

"There were two people at the bar the other day who sat next to each other, and both said they were doing Dry January," she said. "They ended up ordering wine."

MARKET ROUNDUP

Dow High: 33,782.88 Low: 33,316.25 Previous: 33,375.49



Nasdaq		S&P 500		Russell 2000	
+223.98 (+2.01%)		+47.20 (+1.19%)		+23.43 (+1.25%)	
Close	11,364.41	Close	4,019.81	Close	1,890.77
High	11,405.50	High	4,039.31	High	1,896.20
Low	11,144.03	Low	3,971.64	Low	1,867.49
Previous	11,140.43	Previous	3,972.61	Previous	1,867.34

10-yr T-note	Gold futures	Yen	Euro	Crude Oil
+.04	+.70	+1.10	-.0004	-.02
to 3.52%	to $1,927.10	to 130.68/$1	to .9209/$1	to $81.62

Major market growth and decline

5-day % change			30-day % change			1-year % change		
DOW	NASD	S&P	DOW	NASD	S&P	DOW	NASD	S&P
-1.96	+2.57	+.52	+1.28	+8.25	+4.55	-2.14	-17.98	-8.85

FUTURES

COMMODITY	AMOUNT-PRICE	MO.	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHG.
WHEAT (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 23	738	740.50	712.50	720	-21.50
		May 23	746	748	720.75	728	-21
CORN (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 23	674	674.75	661.25	666.25	-10
		May 23	672.50	672.50	660.25	665	-9.50
SOYBEANS (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 23	1500	1503	1479.75	1490.25	-16.25
		May 23	1495.75	1497.75	1476.50	1487.25	-14.50
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT)	60,000 lbs- cents per lb	Mar 23	61.88	62.36	61.21	62.04	+.07
		May 23	61.90	62.30	61.21	62.05	+.07
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT)	100 tons- dollars per ton	Mar 23	462.00	463.50	452.80	461.90	-1.80
		May 23	449.20	450.50	441.40	447.40	-3.60
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NYMX)	1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.	Mar 23	81.79	82.64	81.05	81.62	-.02
		Apr 23	82.12	82.89	81.32	81.93	+.04
NATURAL GAS (NYMX)	10,000 mm btu's, $ per mm btu	Feb 23	3.450	3.564	3.243	3.447	+.273
		Mar 23	3.216	3.243	2.992	3.222	+.186
NY HARBOR GAS BLEND (NYMX)	42,000 gallons- dollars per gallon	Feb 23	2.6528	2.7090	2.6285	2.6965	+.0511
		Mar 23	2.6574	2.7135	2.6324	2.7001	+.0501

Source: The Associated Press

LOCAL STOCKS

Stocks listed may change due to daily fluctuations in market capitalization. *Exchange key: N=NYSE, O=NASDAQ*

STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.
Abbott Labs	N	114.01	+1.19	Equity Lifesty Prop	N	68.37	+.35	Middleby Corp	O	149.91	+3.33
AbbVie Inc	N	148.55	-1.04	Equity Residential	N	61.60	+.27	Mondelez Intl	O	64.36	+.32
Allstate Corp	N	125.24	-.41	Exelon Corp	O	41.82	-.52	Morningstar Inc	O	243.12	+2.35
Aptargroup Inc	N	113.36	+.07	First Indl RT	N	52.77	+.92	Motorola Solutions	N	256.82	+1.51
Arch Dan Mid	N	84.35	-.40	Fortune Brands Innov	N	63.07	+1.08	NiSource Inc	N	27.09	-.12
Baxter Intl	N	45.14	+1.26	GATX	N	107.43	-.63	Nthn Trust Cp	O	94.55	+1.19
Boeing Co	N	209.97	+3.21	Gallagher AJ	N	195.88	+1.98	Old Republic	N	24.03	+.09
Brunswick Corp	N	80.17	+2.19	Grainger WW	N	561.72	+1.48	Packaging Corp Am	N	132.05	-.43
CBOE Global Markets	N	123.03	+.73	Hyatt Hotels Corp	N	110.62	+1.52	Paylocity Hldg	O	202.10	+1.53
CCC Intellig Solut	O	8.80	+.14	IAA Inc	N	43.05	+2.40	RLI Corp	N	132.05	-1.01
CDW Corp	O	199.97	+1.21	IDEX Corp	N	230.86	-.34	Ryan Specialty Group	N	42.20	+.33
CF Industries	N	85.52	-.96	ITW	N	229.01	+2.73	Stericycle Inc	O	53.35	+.53
CME Group	O	174.36	-.70	Ingredion Inc	N	101.21	-.94	TransUnion	N	69.78	+1.93
CNA Financial	N	42.52	+.59	John Bean Technol	N	102.08	+3.23	US Foods Holding	N	36.81	+.17
Caterpillar Inc	N	252.70	+2.99	Jones Lang LaSalle	N	180.07	+3.40	Ulta Salon Cosmetics	O	500.47	+9.22
ConAgra Brands Inc	N	37.43	-.55	Kemper Corp	N	54.21	+.57	United Airlines Hldg	O	49.28	-.18
Deere Co	N	409.34	-1.26	Kraft Heinz Co	O	40.26	+.38	Ventas Inc	N	50.69	+1.41
Discover Fin Svcs	N	110.29	+4.15	LKQ Corporation	O	57.24	+1.28	Walgreen Boots Alli	O	36.67	+.79
Dover Corp	N	141.72	+2.38	Littelfuse Inc	O	251.52	+7.70	Wintrust Financial	O	88.76	+1.53
Envestnet Inc	N	66.49	+.17	McDonalds Corp	N	269.29	+.71	Zebra Tech	O	317.76	+20.73

MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Banco Bradesco ADS	2.71	-.11
Ford Motor	12.80	+.40
Itau Unibanco Hldg	4.86	-.10
Carnival Corp	10.72	+.25
Nokia Corp	4.63	+.02
Verizon Comm	39.63	-.37
AMC Entertainment A	5.66	+.14
Bank of America	34.32	+.47
AT&T Inc	19.10	-.13
Palantir Technol	7.38	+.36
Transocean Ltd	6.23	+.22
Ambev S.A.	2.57	-.03
Shopify Inc	44.04	+3.56
Petrobras	11.73	+.27
Speng Inc ADR	10.10	+.70
Wayfair Inc	59.33	+12.54
Barrick Gold	19.23	+.26
Nu Holdings Ltd	3.92	+.11
Carvana Co A	7.18	+.69
Taiwan Semicon	95.66	+4.63
Ginkgo Bioworks Hldg	1.84	+.18
Credit Suisse Gp	3.54	+.08
Uber Technologies	30.53	+.17
Sthwstn Energy	5.91	+.12

NASDAQ STOCK MARKET

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Exela Technologies	.08	+.00
Tesla Inc	143.75	+10.33
Mullen Automotive	.30	+.01
Intelligent Bio Solu	1.03	+.77
Verb Technology Co	.39	+.16
Faraday Fut Intllgnt	.92	+.31
Summit Wireless Tech	.16	+.02
Adv Micro Dev	76.53	+6.46
Apple Inc	141.11	+3.24
Amazon.com Inc	97.52	+.27
Nvidia Corporation	191.93	+13.54
Bed Bath &Beynd	2.94	-.41
Marathon Digital Hld	9.00	+.93
Allarity Therapeutic	.29	+.04
Rivian Automotive A	18.10	+1.87
Alphabet Inc A	99.79	+1.77
SoFi Technologies	5.87	+.20
Intel Corp	30.27	+1.05
Lucid Group Inc	8.82	+1.00
Microsoft Corp	242.58	+2.36
Alphabet Inc C	101.21	+1.93
Comcast Corp A	40.26	+.89
Tricida Inc	.11	-.01
Meta Platforms Inc	143.27	+3.90

FOREIGN MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHG./%
Shanghai	3264.81	+24.5/+.8
Stoxx600	454.65	+2.6/+.6
Nikkei	26906.04	+352.5/+1.3
MSCI-EAFE	2096.23	+14.9/+.7
Bovespa	111717.17	-323.5/-.3
FTSE 100	7784.67	+14.1/+.2
CAC-40	7032.02	+36.0/+.5

LARGEST COMPANIES

Based on market capitalization

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Alphabet Inc C	101.21	+1.93
Alphabet Inc A	99.79	+1.77
Amazon.com Inc	97.52	+.27
Apple Inc	141.11	+3.24
Berkshire Hath B	310.42	+.55
Chevron Corp	180.66	-.24
Eli Lilly	342.21	-3.86
Exxon Mobil Corp	112.76	-.59
JPMorgan Chase	137.27	+2.19
Johnson & Johnson	168.31	-.43
MasterCard Inc	378.57	+2.29
Microsoft Corp	242.58	+2.36
Nvidia Corporation	191.93	+13.54
Procter & Gamble	141.05	-1.92
Taiwan Semicon	95.66	+4.63
Tesla Inc	143.75	+10.33
Unitedhealth Group	485.81	-.91
Visa Inc	224.18	-.13
WalMart Strs	142.64	+2.10

TREASURY YIELDS

DURATION	CLOSE	PREV.
3-month Disc	4.58	4.57
6-month disc	4.68	4.66
2-year	4.23	4.18
10-year	3.52	3.48
30-year	3.67	3.65

SPOT METALS

	CLOSE	PREV.
Gold	$1927.10	$1926.40
Silver	$23.452	$23.830
Platinum	$1046.70	$1038.10

INTEREST RATES

Prime Rate	7.50
Discount Rate Primary	5.00
Fed Funds Target	4.25-4.50
Money Mkt Overnight Avg.	0.38

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

A U.S. Dollar buys . . .

Argentina (Peso)	184.3658
Australia (Dollar)	1.4243
Brazil (Real)	5.1995
Britain (Pound)	.8085
Canada (Dollar)	1.3387
China (Yuan)	6.7845
Euro	.9209
India (Rupee)	81.496
Israel (Shekel)	3.3658
Japan (Yen)	130.68
Mexico (Peso)	18.8141
Poland (Zloty)	4.33
So. Korea (Won)	1232.29
Taiwan (Dollar)	30.34
Thailand (Baht)	32.74

LARGEST MUTUAL FUNDS

Based on total assets

FUND	NAV	CHG IN $	1-YR %RTN
American Funds AmrcnBalA m	29.69	+.14	-5.1
American Funds AmrcnMutA m	49.16	+.28	+.4
American Funds CptWldGrIncA m	54.74	+.40	-7.1
American Funds CptlIncBldrA m	64.86	+.14	-3.0
American Funds FdmtlInvsA m	63.54	+.59	-5.1
American Funds GrfAmrcA m	53.44	+.80	-14.7
American Funds IncAmrcA m	23.15	+.04	-2.1
American Funds InvCAmrcA m	43.16	+.39	-4.9
American Funds NwPrspctvA m	50.75	+.46	-12.9
American Funds WAMtInvsA m	52.95	+.38	-1.1
Baird AggrgateBdInstl	9.87	-.02	-9.3
Dodge & Cox Incl	12.59	-.01	-6.5
Dodge & Cox IntlStkI	46.71	+.10	-1.4
Dodge & Cox Stkl	226.19	+2.35	-1.9
Fidelity 500IdxInsPrm	139.48	+1.64	-7.1
Fidelity Contrafund	12.74	+.14	-14.8
Fidelity GlobalexUSIdx	13.42	+.06	-6.5
Fidelity GroCo	24.53	+.49	-15.4
Fidelity IntlIdxInstlPrm	44.50	+.14	-4.4
Fidelity InvmGradeBd	10.13	-.02	-8.6
Fidelity TtlMktIdxInsPrm	111.61	+1.38	-7.4
Fidelity USBdIdxInsPrm	10.44	-.03	-9.1
Franklin Templeton IncA1 m	2.34	...	-1.6
Metropolitan West TtlRetBdI	9.35	...	-9.9
PIMCO IncInstl	10.61	...	-4.3
PIMCO TtlRetIns	8.69	-.02	-10.2
Schwab SP500Idx	60.84	...	-9.9
Vanguard 500IdxAdmrl	371.02	+4.35	-9.9
Vanguard BalIdxAdmrl	41.07	...	-9.5
Vanguard DivGrInv	34.98	...	-1.2
Vanguard EqIncAdmrl	85.73	...	+2.2
Vanguard GrIdxAdmrl	118.99	+2.09	-20.5
Vanguard HCAdmrl	90.22	...	+6.7
Vanguard InTrTEAdmrl	13.66	-.02	-3.5
Vanguard InsIdxIns	336.99	+3.96	-9.9
Vanguard InsIdxInsPlus	336.98	+3.95	-9.9
Vanguard IntlGrAdmrl	100.66	...	-17.5
Vanguard MdCpIdxAdmrl	264.06	...	-7.2
Vanguard PrmCpAdmrl	138.49	...	-6.0
Vanguard STInvmGrdAdmrl	10.07	...	-3.6
Vanguard SmCpIdxAdmrl	93.29	...	-4.9
Vanguard TrgtRtr2020Fd	26.32	...	-8.3
Vanguard TrgtRtr2025Fd	17.39	...	-9.0
Vanguard TrgtRtr2030Fd	32.82	...	-9.2
Vanguard TrgtRtr2035Fd	20.28	...	-9.3
Vanguard TrgtRtr2040Fd	35.70	...	-9.3
Vanguard TrgtRtr2045Fd	24.00	...	-9.4
Vanguard TrgtRtr2050Fd	39.80	...	-9.3
Vanguard TrgtRtrIncFd	12.65	...	-7.6
Vanguard TtBMIdxAdmrl	9.75	...	-8.8
Vanguard TtBMIdxIns	9.75	...	-8.7
Vanguard TtlnSIdxAdmrl	30.07	...	-8.4
Vanguard TtlnSIdxIns	120.24	...	-8.4
Vanguard TtlnSIdxInv	17.98	...	-8.4
Vanguard TtlSMIdxAdmrl	96.77	...	-10.4
Vanguard TtlSMIdxIns	96.79	...	-10.4
Vanguard ValIdxAdmrl	55.65	+.39	+.1
Vanguard WlngtnAdmrl	67.90	...	-8.3
Vanguard WlslyIncAdmrl	60.76	...	-5.1
Vanguard WndsrIIAdmrl	68.76	...	-6.7

d - Deferred sales charge, or redemption fee.
m - Multiple fees are charged, usually a marketing fee and either a sales or redemption fee.
Source: Morningstar.

NATION & WORLD

WAR IN UKRAINE

Poland treads lightly on tank request

Warsaw sees a crack in Germany's stance on vehicles for Kyiv

By Monika Scislowska
Associated Press

A Ukrainian serviceman fires a rocket-propelled grenade Monday in the Donetsk region. **ANATOLII STEPANOV/GETTY-AFP**

WARSAW, Poland — Poland said Monday that it would ask Berlin for permission to send German-built Leopard tanks to Ukraine as its Western allies move to supply Kyiv with more powerful military hardware to thwart Russia's invasion.

Germany has hesitated to approve sending tanks to Ukraine. But Polish officials took heart from remarks Sunday by German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock that Berlin wouldn't seek to stop Poland from providing Leopard 2 battle tanks.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki didn't specify when the request to Germany will be made. He said that Poland is building a coalition of nations ready to send Leopard 2 battle tanks to Ukraine.

Poland needs the consent of Germany, which builds the tanks, to send them to a non-NATO country.

But even if Germany doesn't grant permission, Warsaw will make its own decisions, Morawiecki said at a news conference.

Ukraine says tanks — and especially the Leopards — are vital to its war effort. Both sides' battlefield positions are mostly deadlocked during winter, with new ground offensives expected in the spring. Russia's forces are much larger than Ukraine's, so Kyiv wants to gain an advantage in weaponry and fuller backing from its Western allies.

Poland has become a leading advocate in the European Union for giving military aid to help Ukraine prevail 11 months after the Kremlin's forces invaded. Germany's hesitation has drawn criticism, particularly from Poland and the Baltic countries on NATO's eastern flank that feel especially threatened by Russia.

Although Berlin has provided substantial aid, it has been criticized for dragging its feet on providing military hardware.

German government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said it was important for Germany not to take a "reckless" step it might regret, adding that a decision will not be rushed.

"These are hard questions of life and death," he added. "We have to ask what this means for the defense of our own country."

Pressed on how long a decision on sending tanks might take, Hebestreit said: "I assume that it's not a question of months now."

Previously, Polish officials have indicated that Finland and Denmark were ready to join Warsaw in sending Leopards to Ukraine. The United Kingdom has pledged to send Challenger tanks. French President Emmanuel Macron said Sunday that he asked his defense minister to "work on" the possibility of sending Leclerc battle tanks to Ukraine.

But Macron said a decision hinged on three criteria that have also weighed on the minds of other Western leaders: that sharing the equipment doesn't lead to an escalation of the conflict; that it would provide efficient and workable help when training time is taken into account; and that it wouldn't weaken his own military.

Morawiecki said that while Poland intends to ask Germany for permission to send Leopard tanks to Ukraine, the request is "a secondary matter" as a group of EU countries look at how to help Kyiv.

Baerbock told French television channel LCI on Sunday that Poland hasn't formally asked for Berlin's approval to share some of its Leopards, but added "if we were asked, we would not stand in the way."

Poland wants to send a company of Leopard tanks, which means 14, but they would barely make an impression in a war that involves thousands of tanks. If other countries contribute, Warsaw reckons, the tank detachment could grow to a brigade size.

Berlin has shown caution at each step of increasing its aid to Ukraine, a hesitancy rooted in its history and political culture.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the latest developments on Western Europe sending tanks to Ukraine "signaled increasing nervousness among members of the alliance."

Ukraine's supporters pledged billions of dollars in military aid to Kyiv at a meeting Friday at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. International defense leaders discussed Ukraine's request for the Leopard 2 tanks, and the absence of an agreement overshadowed new commitments.

In Brussels, EU foreign ministers gave the green light Monday to a further $543 million package of military support for Ukraine, as well as funds to help pay for a training mission for the bloc has set up for the country's troops.

The money would be used to reimburse EU countries for weapons and ammunition they supply Ukraine. Another $49 million will pay for the 27-nation bloc's military training mission this year. It brings the total amount of money provided to Ukraine from the EU fund to $3.9 billion.

Moscow has stepped up its warnings that escalation risks catastrophe.

"We have said on numerous occasions that escalation is the most dangerous path, and the consequences may be unpredictable," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said. "Our signals are not listened to, and Russia's adversaries keep raising the stakes."

Computer coder averted a 2nd tragedy, police say

Calif. officials credit man with wresting pistol from gunman

By Victoria Kim
The New York Times

Brandon Tsay, 26, recounts how he thought he was "going to die" moments before a struggle to disarm a gunman Saturday night in Alhambra, Calif. **MARK ABRAMSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

SAN MARINO, Calif. — Saturday night was winding down at the Lai Lai Ballroom & Studio, with less than a half-hour to go until closing. There were three people left on the dance floor.

Brandon Tsay, the third-generation operator of the family-run dance hall in Alhambra, was in the office off the lobby, watching the ballroom, when he heard the front doors swing closed and a strange clang that sounded like metallic objects hitting one another.

He turned around to see a semi-automatic assault pistol pointed at him.

"He was looking at me and looking around, not hiding that he was trying to do harm. His eyes were menacing," recalled Tsay, 26, at his family's San Marino home Sunday, less than 24 hours after he stared down a gunman who, unbeknown to him, had opened fire at another nearby ballroom, killing 11 people and injuring several others in one of California's worst mass shootings.

About 20 minutes after that massacre, the gunman, identified as Huu Can Tran, 72, arrived at Lai Lai, about 2 miles to the north, officials said.

Officials said Tran may have had ties to the first ballroom, but have yet to determine a motive for that attack or his reason for apparently targeting Lai Lai.

Tsay struggled with the gunman and eventually disarmed him, saving lives and averting another tragedy. It was an act that officials praised as heroic. Tran was found dead Sunday afternoon of a self-inflicted gunshot in a van about 30 miles away, according to law enforcement officials.

Tsay said the weapon the gunman was carrying signaled he intended to inflict maximum damage.

"How it was built and customized, I knew it wasn't for robbing money," Tsay said of the weapon. "From his body language, his facial expression, his eyes, he was looking for people."

Sheriff Robert Luna of Los Angeles County said in a news briefing Sunday that "two community members" had disarmed the gunman at the Alhambra ballroom. "This could have been much worse," he said.

But Tsay and his family, who reviewed the security camera footage from the lobby of the ballroom, said it was he alone who fought the gunman over control of the weapon and wrested it from him. The doors to the ballroom were closed, and no one else was involved, they said.

"It was just my son. He could have died," said his father, Tom Tsay, who said he was proud of his son for the bravery he showed. "He's lucky, someone was watching over him."

His older sister, Brenda, who runs the business, said the video showed a prolonged, fierce struggle between the two men all over the lobby.

"He kept coming at him, he really wanted the gun back," she said of the gunman.

Brandon Tsay, a computer coder who mans the ticket office a few days a week at the ballroom started by his grandparents, said it was around 10:35 p.m. Saturday that he turned to face the gunman, whom he didn't recognize. He had never seen a real gun before, but could tell that it was a deadly weapon, he said.

"My heart sank, I knew I was going to die," he said.

The next moment, he lunged and grabbed the weapon by its barrel and began wrestling with the gunman for control of it.

"That moment, it was primal instinct," he said. "Something happened there. I don't know what came over me."

They fought over control of the gun for about a minute and a half, Tsay said.

At one point, the gunman looked down at the weapon and took one hand off it, as if to manipulate the gun to begin shooting. Tsay said he seized the moment and pried the pistol away from the man.

He pointed the weapon back at the assailant and yelled at him to leave, he recalled.

Tsay, who stayed up all night assisting police with their investigation, said he felt traumatized and hadn't quite been able to process what he had been through. He particularly felt heartbroken for the community of Monterey Park and surrounding areas where his family and their ballroom had become established as a beloved haven over three decades, he said.

"Lai Lai," a name his grandmother chose, means "come, come," in Chinese, his sister said.

The assailant looked as if he could easily be one of their regulars, Tsay said.

"We have such a tight-knit community of dancers," he said. "It feels so terrible something like this happened, to have one of our individuals try to harm others."

US officials: Ex-FBI counterintelligence agent aided Russian oligarch

By Michael R. Sisak and Eric Tucker
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A former high-ranking FBI counterintelligence official who investigated Russian oligarchs has been indicted on charges he secretly worked for one, in violation of U.S. sanctions. The official was also charged, in a separate indictment, with taking cash from a former foreign security officer.

Charles McGonigal, the special agent in charge of the FBI's counterintelligence division in New York from 2016 to 2018, is accused in an indictment unsealed Monday of working with a former Soviet diplomat-turned-Russian interpreter on behalf of Oleg Deripaska, a Russian billionaire they purportedly referred to in code as "the big guy" and "the client."

McGonigal, who had supervised and participated in investigations of Russian oligarchs, including Deripaska, worked to have Deripaska's sanctions lifted in 2019 and took money from him in 2021 to investigate a rival oligarch, the Justice Department said.

McGonigal and the interpreter, Sergey Shestakov were arrested Saturday — McGonigal after landing at John F. Kennedy International Airport and Shestakov at his home in Morris, Connecticut — and held at a federal jail in Brooklyn. They both pleaded not guilty Monday and were released on bail.

McGonigal, 54, and Shestakov, 69, are charged with violating and conspiring to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, conspiring to commit money laundering and money laundering. Shestakov is also charged with making material misstatements to the FBI.

McGonigal was separately charged in federal court in Washington with concealing at least $225,000 in cash he allegedly received from a former Albanian intelligence official while working for the FBI.

The indictment does not charge or characterize the payment to McGonigal as a bribe, but federal prosecutors say that, while hiding the payment from the FBI, he took actions as an FBI supervisor that were aimed at his own financial benefit.

The U.S. Treasury Department added Deripaska to its sanctions list in 2018 for purported ties to the Russian government and Russia's energy sector amid Russia's threats to Ukraine.

Shestakov, who worked as an interpreter for federal courts and prosecutors in New York City after retiring as a diplomat in 1993, helped connect McGonigal to Deripaska, according to the indictment.

After retiring from the FBI, according to the indictment, McGonigal worked as a consultant and investigator for an international law firm seeking to reverse Deripaska's sanctions.

‘We have to unite to keep fighting’

Brazil’s right-wing movement persists without Bolsonaro

By David Biller and Natalia Scarabotto
Associated Press

Supporters of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro leave their encampment Jan. 9 outside army headquarters in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as military police stand watch. A riot in the capital, Brasilia, had taken place the previous day. **ANDRE PENNER/AP**

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil’s defeated former president, Jair Bolsonaro, was in Florida this month when his supporters tried — but failed — to overthrow the country’s young democracy. It was a sign that many in Latin America’s largest nation believe so fiercely in his movement that it can persist without its namesake.

Although ‘Bolsonarismo’ appears disoriented at the moment, the broader trend will endure. That’s according to academics who study the movement and participants in the trend themselves, from the far-right radicals who stormed the capital to more ordinary Brazilian social conservatives. Many feel that leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was such a threat to their country that his victory required the military to prevent him from taking office.

Daniel Bressan, 35, traveled 300 miles to join protesters in the capital, Brasilia. He was taken into custody on Jan. 9, the morning after he and thousands of others invaded Congress, the Supreme Court and the presidential palace.

“Bolsonaro brought the spirit of patriotism and family values back to the people, and now we have to unite to keep fighting,” Bressan, who denies vandalizing the buildings, said by phone on Jan. 10 from inside the federal police’s temporary holding center. “From Bolsonaro himself, we don’t expect anything.”

On the campaign trail in 2018, Bolsonaro tapped into outrage sparked by a sprawling corruption investigation into public figures. The seven-term lawmaker cast himself as an outsider to segments of society that felt undeservedly sidelined.

Some quietly shared his taboo nostalgia for the military dictatorship. Bolsonaro, a former army captain, has supported torture and said the regime should have killed even more communists than it did. Other hardcore supporters were drawn to his exaltation of conservative values, his embrace of Christianity and his push to arm the general public. Bolsonaro became the “symbolic glue” holding these groups together, according to anthropologist Isabela Kalil, coordinator of the Extreme Right Observatory.

“It’s more about how supporters mobilize the image of Bolsonaro than about his actions themselves,” said Kalil. “Those images are independent from the figure of Bolsonaro. He controls them partially, but not totally.”

Radicalism deepened at the encampments that mushroomed outside military buildings nationwide after Bolsonaro’s loss, with die-hard backers demanding the army intervene to overturn the closest race since the nation’s return to democracy over three decades ago. Bolsonaro had repeatedly characterized Lula as a thief who would plunge the nation into communism.

Bolsonaro has been virtually invisible since the election, surprising many who expected a show of righteous indignation after months casting doubt on electronic voting machines.

Two days before Lula’s inauguration, Bolsonaro went to Florida. A week after the inauguration, without any apparent signal from Bolsonaro or the military, rioters took action. The horde smashed windows, trashed artwork, sprayed fire extinguishers and fire hoses.

To the limited extent that Bolsonaro commented on the uprising, it was to say that destroying public property was a step over the line. Many of his supporters were left disappointed.

“Trying to distance himself from what happened causes him to lose his link to the base that coordinated these attacks,” said Guilherme Casaroes, a political scientist at the Getulio Vargas Foundation, a university and think tank. “The attack in Brasilia was a shot in the foot and weakens Bolsonarismo as a personalist, radical movement, its two fundamental characteristics.”

Bolsonaro’s party had intended for him to be a leading voice in the opposition, yet it remains unclear when he will return from Florida. Back home, several investigations targeting him could strip him of his ability to run for office.

His far-right allies who were elected to office have the opportunity to claim his political spoils for themselves and are vocally defending arrested rioters. Paulo Baia, a sociologist and political scientist at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, said he believes that “the term Bolsonarismo will disappear in coming months,” even as the movement continues onward, diluted among other actors.

Unlike Bolsonaro, U.S. President Donald Trump was present on Jan. 6, 2021, just before the attack on the U.S. Capitol, urging his followers to the building. He has continued defending their behavior since and tried to make support for the election lies that fueled the attack a defining issue in last November’s elections. The Republican party underperformed, however, rendering Trump’s position within it more precarious than at any time since 2016.

Thomas Carothers, co-director of the Democracy, Conflict and Governance program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said the U.S. and Brazilian riots have no true precedents elsewhere and it is hard to predict what will happen next, but they may have marked high points for both their populist inspirations’ political power.

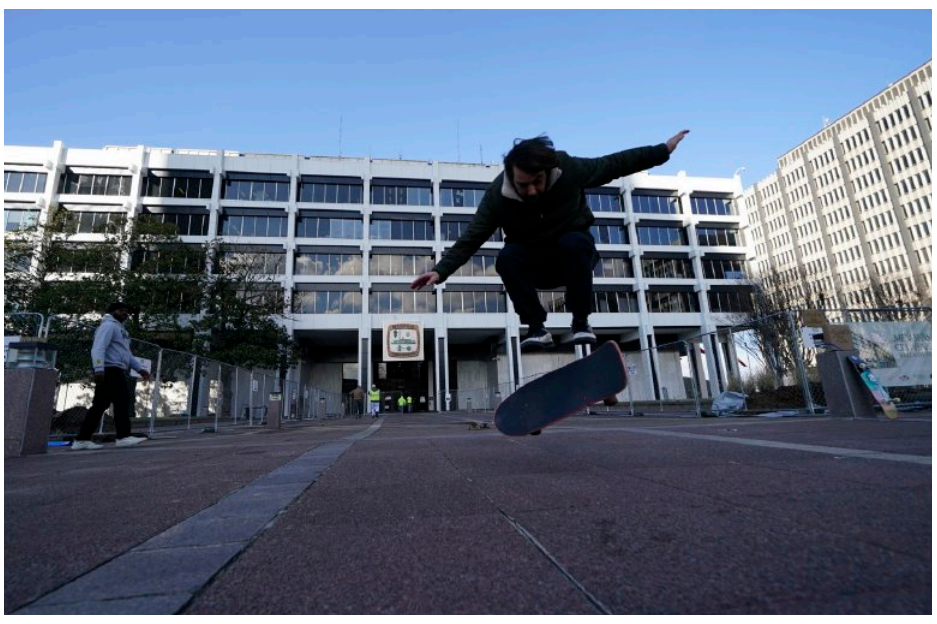
“We need to stop thinking about just Bolsonaro. Bolsonaro isn’t the principal leader,” Alberdan Souza, 28, who administers a Telegram channel about geopolitics, said by phone from Juazeiro do Norte in Brazil’s poor northeast. “He is the guy who caused a surge for the right and for the feeling of Brazilian patriotism, but the movement is much bigger than Bolsonaro.”

Radicals have remained engaged on social media, firstly washing their hands of responsibility for the destruction by blaming supposed left-wing infiltrators.

And they continue issuing calls to stay mobilized so the military can act, announcing general strikes and the shutdown of refineries and gasoline stations to grind Brazil to a halt, according to Marie Santini, coordinator of NetLab, a research group at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro that monitors social media. So far, further aggression in the real world has been limited. At least 12 transmission towers were attacked, several of which were toppled, according to the energy regulator.

“It isn’t that these calls were successful, but it demonstrates that the coup impetus remains strong,” Santini said.

Three days after the uprising, a supposed “mega-protest to retake power” was ultimately a dud. At Rio de Janeiro’s Copacabana beach, police and journalists outnumbered the few demonstrators. It was a stark contrast with the scene in the same spot weeks before the election, with flyovers, paratroopers, warships and Bolsonaro delivering a stump speech to a jubilant crowd.


A skateboarder performs by City Hall on Monday in remembrance of Tyre Nichols in Memphis, Tenn. Nichols was a member of the skateboarding community. **GERALD HERBERT/AP**

Memphis police beat man for 3 minutes, attorney says

By Adrian Sainz
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A lawyer for the family of a Black man who died at a hospital three days after a confrontation with five Black police officers during a traffic stop said Monday that video of the encounter shows it was “violent” and “troublesome on every level.”

Attorney Ben Crump said during a news conference that the footage of Tyre Nichols’ Jan. 7 arrest “is appalling. It is deplorable. It is heinous.”

Crump, who viewed the footage hours earlier along with Nichols’ family and their other lawyers, said it reminded them of the infamous video of the Los Angeles police beating of Rodney King.

“Regrettably, it reminded us of Rodney King video. ... And unlike Rodney King, Tyre didn’t survive,” he said.

Another of the family’s attorneys, Antonio Romanucci, said the beating of Nichols lasted three minutes.

“He was a human pinata for those police officers,” Romanucci said.

Crump said the authorities won’t release the video to the public for a week or two, but that it will be released.

Shelby County District Attorney Steve Mulroy issued a statement Monday saying investigators don’t want the release of the video to the public yet because they don’t want to risk compromising the investigation.

Nichols, a 29-year-old father, FedEx worker and avid skateboarder, died Jan. 10 at a hospital, authorities said.

Memphis Police Department Director Cerelyn “CJ” Davis announced Friday that five officers involved in the arrest were fired after the police probe determined that they used excessive force or failed to intervene and render aid.

Nichols’ family, protesters and activists have called for the video’s release and for the officers to be charged with murder.

The officers have been identified as Tadarrius Bean, Demetrius Haley, Emmitt Martin III, Desmond Mills, Jr. and Justin Smith.

Relatives have accused police of beating Nichols and causing him to have a heart attack.

Authorities have only said that Nichols experienced a medical emergency.

The U.S. Justice Department has opened a civil rights investigation into the arrest, and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation is looking into whether excessive force was used.

City and community leaders have expressed concern about the possibility of civil unrest following the video’s release.

Nichols’ stepfather, Rodney Wells, said Monday the family hopes that any protests remain peaceful.

Nichols was arrested after officers stopped him for reckless driving, police said.

In a news release the day after his arrest, the police department said that as officers approached the vehicle, “a confrontation occurred’ and he ran. It said officers caught up to him and that “another confrontation occurred” while they were taking him into custody.

Officials said a cause of death has not been determined.

Gallego launches 2024 bid for Sen. Sinema’s Ariz. seat

By Jonathan J. Cooper
Associated Press

U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego, a 43-year-old military veteran first elected to Congress in 2014, has made no secret of his interest in challenging Sen. Sinema. **GREG NASH/POOL PHOTO**

PHOENIX — Democratic Rep. Ruben Gallego, a liberal firebrand and prominent Latino lawmaker, announced Monday that he’ll challenge independent U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema in 2024, becoming the first candidate to jump into the race and setting up a potential three-way contest.

Gallego said he’d fight for normal people struggling to make ends meet and losing faith in politicians. He said he and Sinema both come from “modest to poor means” but have taken different paths in Congress.

“I’m better for this job than Kyrsten Sinema because I haven’t forgotten where I came from,” Gallego said. “I think she clearly has forgotten where she came from. Instead of meeting with the people that need help, she meets with the people that are already powerful.”

Gallego, a 43-year-old military veteran first elected to Congress in 2014, had made no secret of his interest in challenging Sinema, a longtime rival in Arizona politics who has been a roadblock and irritant to Democrats during Joe Biden’s presidency. She left the Democratic Party in December, registering as an independent and saying she doesn’t “fit well into a traditional party system.”

She has not said whether she plans to run for a second term. Although no Republican has entered the race, potential contenders include former gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake, former U.S. Senate candidate Blake Masters and Pinal County Sheriff Mark Lamb — all of whom are closely aligned with former President Donald Trump.

Karrin Taylor Robson, a housing developer who lost to Lake in last year’s primary, and former Gov. Doug Ducey are also possible contenders.

A three-way race, coupled with the risk that Sinema and the eventual Democratic nominee will split the vote, would complicate the party’s uphill battle to maintain control of the Senate in 2024. Democrats will be forced to defend 23 seats, including Sinema’s and two others held by independents, compared with just 10 seats for Republicans.

With tough and expensive races on the horizon, it remains unclear just how firmly the Democratic establishment and major donors will line up against Sinema, who has voted for most Democratic legislation even as she’s stood in the way of major priorities for the White House, congressional leaders and the progressive movement.

“I’m assuming that they will be with us because we are going to run the winning campaign, and because at the end of the day, if you look at where Arizonans are going to be, they’re going to be with us and not with her,” Gallego said.

A spokesperson for Sinema, Hannah Hurley, declined to comment on Gallego’s announcement.

Gallego, an acerbic presence on social media who is quick to take down rivals from both parties, floated the idea of challenging Sinema to raise money last year and has for weeks been publicly assembling a team of advisers, hiring Democratic campaign veterans with experience working on tough swing-state Senate races.

He announced his campaign with an online video that shows him talking to veterans at an American Legion post in Guadalupe, a Latino and Indigenous community just outside Phoenix. He said his path from humble roots, beating the odds by getting accepted to Harvard University, motivates him to fight to preserve the American dream, first in the military and now in politics.

The son of immigrants from Mexico and Colombia, Gallego was raised in Chicago by a single mother, after his father was imprisoned for dealing drugs.

He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Reserves while he was on a break from Harvard, where he struggled with culture shock.

Gallego was elected in 2010 to the state Legislature, where Sinema also served for one of his two terms.

Novel's Putin portrait worries some

Critics say bestseller could sway France's Ukraine war stance

By Constant Meheut
The New York Times

Giuliano da Empoli takes a walk Jan. 10 in Paris. His novel, "The Wizard of the Kremlin," has raised his profile as an analyst of Russian affairs. **DMITRY KOSTYUKOV/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS**

"The Wizard of the Kremlin" was the fifth biggest-selling book in France in 2022, selling more than 430,000 copies.

PARIS — There are "two things that Russians require from the state: internal order and external power."

So says a fictional President Vladimir Putin in "Le Mage du Kremlin," or "The Wizard of the Kremlin," a novel exploring the inner workings of his government that has captivated France, winning prizes and selling more than 430,000 copies.

Published shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine last February, the novel has become a popular guide for understanding Putin's motives. It has also turned its Swiss-Italian author, Giuliano da Empoli, into a coveted "Kremlinologist," invited to lunch with the French prime minister and to France's top morning news show to analyze the war's developments.

The success has illustrated the continued power of literature in France, where novels have long shaped public debate. Elisabeth Borne, the prime minister, said through a spokesperson that she "really enjoyed his book, which mixes fiction and reality and echoes international current events and the war in Ukraine."

But in a country where literary hits are a kind of Rorschach test, the novel's success has also raised concerns about whether it is shaping France's views on Russia. Its detractors say the book conveys a largely sympathetic portrayal of Putin that may influence policy in a country that is already chastised as too forgiving of the Russian leader.

"The Wizard of the Kremlin," which at times reads like an essay, is built around a fictionalized account of a powerful longtime Putin aide musing on Western decadence, the U.S.' goal of bringing Russia to "its knees" and Russians' preference for a strong leader — typical Kremlin talking points that critics say go unchallenged throughout the pages.

At best, the book's popularity echoes what Gerard Araud, the former French ambassador to the United States, called "a kind of French fascination with Russia" fueled by a shared history of revolution, empire and cultural masterpieces.

At worst, critics say, it signals lenient views of Putin that are enduring in France and may shape the country's stance on the war, as reflected in President Emmanuel Macron's calls not to humiliate Russia.

"The book conveys the cliches of Russian propaganda, with a few small nuances," said Cecile Vaissie, a political scientist specializing in Russia at Rennes 2 University. "When I see its success, that worries me."

Dissecting politics was nothing new to da Empoli. A former deputy mayor of Florence, Italy, and adviser to an Italian prime minister, he has already published a dozen political essays in Italian and French, including one on Barack Obama's 2008 presidential run.

But da Empoli wanted to try fiction and had a "fascination" with the way Russian power is projected. So he modeled his debut novel's narrator on one of the country's most intriguing figures, Vladislav Surkov.

"The challenge of the book is to take the devil's point of view," da Empoli said.

Until recently, Surkov was Putin's chief ideologist and one of the architects of the extreme centralized control exerted by Putin, earning him a reputation as a puppet master and the title "Putin's Rasputin."

"The character's rather novelistic nature struck me," said da Empoli, a soft-spoken, restrained 49-year-old who now teaches at Sciences Po university in Paris. He added that he had visited Russia four times and had read numerous essays on the country's politics and the Putin regime during his research.

The narrator chronicles the inner workings of Putin's government. He crosses paths with real-life Kremlin players like Yevgeny Prigozhin, the founder of the infamous Wagner mercenary group, with whom he sets up troll farms to spread disinformation and division in the West.

Da Empoli handed in his manuscript to his publisher two years ago. He said he did not expect much for his first attempt at fiction.

Then came Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The novel, which had long been scheduled for publication in the spring, was one of the first new looks at Putin. It soon became the talk of the town.

"I don't go to a dinner or a lunch without offering the book," said Helene Carrere d'Encausse, a specialist in Russian history who has condemned the war but who has also previously defended Putin. "It's a key to understanding Putin."

Hubert Vedrine, a former French foreign minister, said that "the word-of-mouth was so good" that he felt compelled to read the novel, which he described as "incredibly credible."

"The Wizard of the Kremlin" was the fifth bestselling book in France in 2022. It received a prize from the Academie Francaise and fell short of the Goncourt, France's most prestigious literary award, by only one vote after an extraordinary 14 rounds of balloting.

Top politicians and diplomats publicly praised the novel. Edouard Philippe, a former prime minister, hailed it as a great "meditation on power." Da Empoli was invited on every talk show to analyze the current conflict.

"Circumstances have obviously changed the way the book was received," said da Empoli, who sees his novel more as political fiction than as a guide to understanding Russia. "I didn't necessarily expect that."

He was not the only one surprised. Several Russia experts have expressed dismay at the novel's enthusiastic reception. They say the book is mostly indulgent about Putin, portraying him as fighting oligarchs for the good of the people and "putting Russia back on its feet" in the face of Western contempt.

Vaissie, the political scientist, put it more bluntly. "It's a bit like Russia Today for Saint-Germain-des-Pres," she said, referring to the Kremlin-funded television channel and the Paris redoubt of the French literary elite.

Several French diplomats disagreed, arguing that the novel, if anything, is a useful look into the thinking of the Putin government.

"We have to hear this speech, too," said Sylvie Bermann, a former French ambassador in Moscow. "It doesn't mean that we agree with it."

French right-wing groups have long sung Putin's praises. And prominent intellectuals, like Carrere d'Encausse, have endorsed the Kremlin's view that the West humiliated Russia after the end of the Cold War.

Under normal circumstances, "The Wizard of the Kremlin" might have fueled a harmless literary quarrel of the sort that periodically grips France. But not in a time of war.

The arguments over the book are occurring just when divisions persist in Europe over how to deal with Putin. While Eastern European countries like Poland say he must be defeated outright, Western European nations like France have wavered between unequivocal financial and military support of Ukraine and reaching out to Putin.

"This book has become almost a textbook of history and politics for French leaders," said Alexandre Melnik, a former Russian diplomat who opposes Putin. He pointed to Macron's remarks that appeared sympathetic to Russia's grievances.

Three presidential advisers declined to say, or said they did not know, whether Macron had read the novel.

NEWS BRIEFING

Officials say 7 dead in connected shootings in N. Calif. community

From news services

HALF MOON BAY, Calif. — Seven people were killed in two related shootings Monday at a mushroom farm and a trucking firm in a coastal community south of San Francisco, and a suspect was in custody, officials said.

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors President Dave Pine says four people were killed at the farm and three at the trucking business on the outskirts of Half Moon Bay, a city 30 miles south of San Francisco.

It wasn't clear how the locations were connected, though Pine said the suspect worked for one of the businesses. He called the suspect a "disgruntled worker."

California state Sen. Josh Becker, who represents the area, said people were killed in separate shootings. San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa tweeted that one shooting happened at a mushroom farm.

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office tweeted just before 5 p.m. that a suspect was in custody.

"There is no ongoing threat to the community at this time," the sheriff's office said.

Television footage from the area showed officers taking a man into custody without incident. Aerial television images also showed police officers collecting evidence from a farm with dozens of greenhouses.

The shooting followed the killing of 11 people Saturday night at a ballroom dance hall in Southern California.

"We are sickened by today's tragedy in Half Moon Bay," said Dave Pine, president of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

Iowa school shooting: Two students were killed Monday and an adult employee was injured in what police said was a targeted shooting at a Des Moines school dedicated to helping at-risk youths.

Three suspects were arrested afterward.

The shooting was at an educational program called Starts Right Here that is affiliated with the Des Moines school district.

Police say emergency crews were called to the school, which is in a business park, just before 1 p.m. Officers arrived to find two students critically injured, and they started CPR immediately. The two students died at a hospital.

The adult employee of the school who was injured is in serious condition and was headed into surgery Monday afternoon.

About 20 minutes after the shooting, police said officers stopped a car that matched witnesses' descriptions about two miles away and took three suspects into custody. Police said one of the suspects ran, but officers using a K-9 were able to track that person down.

Speaker office intruder: An Arkansas man who propped his feet up on a desk in then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office during the U.S. Capitol riot was convicted Monday of joining a mob's attack on the building two years ago.

A jury deliberated for two hours before unanimously convicting Richard "Bigo" Barnett on all eight counts in his indictment, including felony charges of civil disorder and obstruction of an official proceeding.

Barnett lounging at a desk in Pelosi's office made him one of the most memorable figures from the riot on Jan. 6, 2021, the day when Congress convened a joint session to certify President Joe Biden's electoral victory.

U.S. District Judge Christopher Cooper is scheduled to sentence Barnett on May 3. The judge agreed to let Barnett remain free on certain conditions until his sentencing.

Outside the courthouse after the verdict, Barnett vowed to appeal his conviction, calling it an "injustice." He noted that the judge had rejected his request to move his trial from Washington to Arkansas.

4 Oath Keepers guilty: Four members of the Oath Keepers were convicted Monday of seditious conspiracy in the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack in the second major trial of far-right extremists accused of plotting to forcibly keep President Donald Trump in power.

The verdict against Joseph Hackett, of Sarasota, Florida; Roberto Minuta, of Prosper, Texas; David Moerschel, of Punta Gorda, Florida; and Edward Vallejo, of Phoenix, comes weeks after a different jury convicted the group's leader, Stewart Rhodes, in the mob's attack that halted the certification of President Joe Biden's electoral victory.

It's another major victory for the Justice Department, which is also trying to secure sedition convictions against the former leader of the Proud Boys and four associates. The trial against Enrique Tarrio and his lieutenants opened earlier this month in Washington and is expected to last several weeks.

The Washington jury deliberated for about 12 hours over three days before delivering their guilty verdict on the rarely used charge, which carries up to 20 years in prison. The four were also convicted of two other conspiracy charges as well as obstructing an official proceeding: Congress' certification of the 2020 election. Minuta, Hackett and Moerschel were acquitted of lesser charges.

Fraternity hazing: The family of a student who died from alcohol poisoning while pledging a fraternity will receive nearly $3 million from Bowling Green State University in Ohio to settle its hazing-related lawsuit, according to an agreement announced Monday.

As part of the settlement, the family of Stone Foltz and the university both said they will work to address and eliminate hazing on college campuses. Foltz's parents have started a foundation focused on hazing education and have spoken to students at other universities about its dangers.

A university investigation found that the 20-year-old had attended a fraternity initiation event where there was a tradition of new members finishing or attempting to finish a bottle of alcohol, according to a university investigation.

Foltz was found unconscious after members of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity dropped him off at his apartment.

Kansas senator scammed: Someone scammed U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran's reelection campaign out of $690,000 by getting the Kansas Republican's accounting firm to wire the money to fraudulent bank accounts, his office said Monday.

Moran's campaign treasurer, Timothy Gottschalk, notified the Federal Election Commission by electronic letter Dec. 8 of "fraudulent activity by a third-party cyber-criminal." The letter said that after the campaign notified a local sheriff's office on Nov. 16, eight days after the general election, the case was forwarded to the FBI and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

The letter said the campaign received two fraudulent invoices that appeared to be from SRCP Media Inc., a Washington area company hired to handle Moran's broadcast advertising. The letter said the campaign organization wired $345,000 on Oct. 25 and another $345,000 on Nov. 9.

The campaign's electronic letter to the FEC said that as of Dec. 8, the campaign had recovered $168,184.

Chinese artists dressed in traditional outfits perform an ice frolic on a frozen lake Monday at the Yuanmingyuan Garden during the second day of the Lunar New Year celebrations in Beijing. The Lunar New Year is the most important annual holiday in China. Each year is named after one of the 12 signs of the Chinese zodiac with this being the Year of the Rabbit. **ANDY WONG/AP**

ARTS & LIVING

Ishmael Falke performs in "Invisible Lands" by the Livsmedlet Theatre during the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival at the Chopin Theatre on Sunday. "Invisible Lands" transforms the performers' bodies into the physical terrain on which refugees — represented by miniature figurines — travel after leaving home. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL PUPPET THEATER FESTIVAL

Wondrous sights

Fest's first week had a whale of a 'Moby Dick,' tiny figures and a marionette made of ice

By Emily McClanathan
For Chicago Tribune

Ishmael Falke and Sandrina Lindgren perform Sunday in "Invisible Lands" during the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival at the Chopin Theatre.

A terrifying whale, a delicate marionette made of ice and a collection of intricate figurines that travel across the terrain of human bodies were several of the sights on offer during the first week of the 12-day Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival. The fifth edition of the festival — the largest of its kind in North America — presents performances by artists from 10 countries, as well as workshops, symposia and exhibitions at venues across Chicago through Jan. 29.

Belying the common perception that puppet shows are just for kids, the festival showcases puppetry as a sophisticated art form that generates boundary-pushing work and wholly unexpected experiences for theatergoers. That being said, there are plenty of family-friendly productions in this year's lineup, including shows at Chicago Children's Theatre and a free neighborhood tour.

In the recently renovated Studebaker Theater at the Fine Arts Building, a haunting production of **"Moby Dick"** by the French Norwegian company Plexus Polaire opened the festival. Artistic director Yngvild Aspeli's adaptation of Herman Melville's 1851 novel evokes the mystery of the seas and the megalomania of Captain Ahab through large-scale puppets, live music and video projections.

On a skeletal set modeled after the ribs of a ship — or those of a whale — seven actors and puppeteers perform with puppets that include crew members who smoke and sing in their hammocks, an oversized Ahab marionette who rages against his elusive enemy, and the grand finale: the giant white whale himself. A trio of onstage musicians provides accompaniment that ranges from rousing sea shanties and otherworldly whale sounds to the frenzied cacophony of the hunts.

In one scene that embodies both the elegance and violence of this production, small-scale whale puppets — the biggest perhaps 4 feet long — swim together in a mesmerizing, dance-like sequence, which is suddenly disturbed by a shout of "Thar she blows!" Tiny boats issue from a miniature ship, and soon the sailors harpoon an adult whale. The brutal techniques of whaling — stripping one's prey to extract its precious oil before discarding the carcass — are depicted by unraveling the puppet's skin and revealing its red innards. A baby whale looks on and

Turn to Puppets, *Page 8*

Gun safety on film sets getting 'a lot louder'

As Baldwin faces charges, experts say 'Rust' shooting likely forever changed productions

By Andrew Dalton
Associated Press

Film production and firearms experts say movie sets probably changed permanently when cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was shot and killed on the remote New Mexico set of the Western movie "Rust" in October 2021, leading to the recent announcement from prosecutors that Alec Baldwin and the film's weapons supervisor will be charged with involuntary manslaughter.

"The gun safety experience on set has become more vocal, it's a lot louder," said Joey Dillon, an armorer who has overseen the use of firearms on television shows including "Westworld" and movies including "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs." "I make it a lot louder myself."

Baldwin was pointing the gun with a live round inside that killed Hutchins as they set up a shot for a scene in the movie. People at several levels of production are determined to ensure it never happens again.

That has meant the increasing use of digital and other technology that could make gunfire of any kind obsolete. It has also meant more simple things, like shouting when using the same safety protocols long in place to make clear to everyone when a gun is present and what its status is.

Actors and others are also more interested when the gun is handed over.

"Now people want to check because people are a little gun-shy," Dillon said. "I'll stop the whole process just to show them so that they feel comfortable with it."

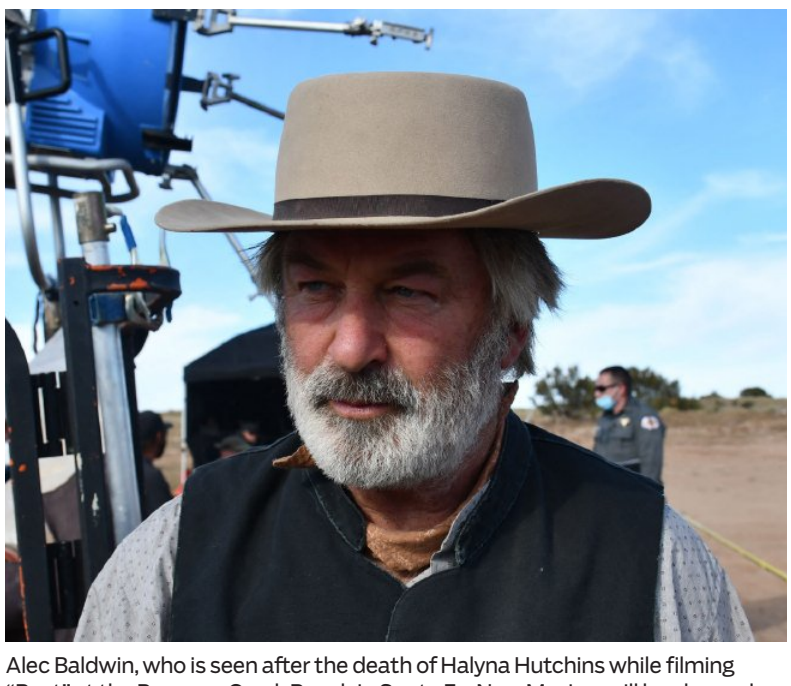
While checking a gun themselves may be in the best interest of actors, how much responsibility they bear for doing so remains in dispute, and will be a central question for jurors should Baldwin's case go to trial.

His union, and his lawyer, say this onus can't be placed on performers.

"An actor's job is not to be a firearms or weapons expert," the Screen Actors Guild said in a statement after the prosecutors' announcement in the case. "Firearms are provided for their use under the guidance of multiple expert professionals directly responsible for the safe and accurate operation of that firearm."

Baldwin's defense attorney Luke Nikas said in a statement

Turn to Safety, *Page 8*



Alec Baldwin, who is seen after the death of Halyna Hutchins while filming "Rust" at the Bonanza Creek Ranch in Santa Fe, New Mexico, will be charged with involuntary manslaughter over the accidental shooting.
SANTA FE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2021

CELEBRITIES

PEN America to fete 'SNL's' Michaels

From news services

This year's PEN America Literary Gala will be notable for the presence of "Saturday Night Live."

PEN America, the literary and free expression organization, is giving "SNL" creator-executive Lorne Michaels its PEN/Audible Literary Service Award, which in previous years has gone to Toni Morrison, Stephen Sondheim and Patti Smith, among others. The May 18 event will be hosted by Colin Jost, an "SNL" writer and "Weekend Update" co-anchor.

In a statement, PEN America CEO Suzanne Nossel said Michaels' "unique brand of uproarious and fearless political and social sketches forever changed television and comedy."

"The political landscape wouldn't be the same without 'SNL' to offer up a weekly skewering of a hapless cast of characters from the halls of power in Washington — a merry time capsule of what gave us joy and jitters in moments of national exhilaration and peril," she said.

On Monday, PEN America also announced it will honor Ted Sarandos, Netflix's chief content officer and co-chief executive officer, who will receive the Business Visionary Award because of "the transformative impact of Netflix on storytelling, society at large, and on book adaptations as a critical source of content."

Lorne Michaels, seen Jan. 5, will receive the PEN/Audible Literary Service Award in May. PAUL ARCHULETA/GETTY

Renner says he broke 30-plus bones in accident: Actor Jeremy Renner says he broke more than 30 bones in a snowplow accident on New Year's Day.

Renner, 52, is recovering at home from what Nevada authorities say were serious chest injuries he suffered when he was run over by his 7-ton Pistenbully snow groomer while helping free a relative's car on a private road near Lake Tahoe.

In social media posts Saturday, Renner expressed "much love and appreciation" to people for their "messages and thoughtfulness."

"These 30 plus broken bones will mend, grow stronger, just like the love and bond with family and friends deepens," he wrote.

He also wrote, "Morning workouts, resolutions all changed this particular new years .... Spawned from tragedy for my entire family, and quickly focused into uniting actionable love."

'Avatar' crosses $2 billion in global ticket sales: James Cameron's "Avatar: The Way of Water" led movie ticket sales for the sixth straight weekend, making it the first film to have such a sustained reign atop the box office since 2009's "Avatar." The Walt Disney Co.'s "The Way of Water" added $19.7 million in U.S. and Canadian theaters over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. Its global total has surpassed $2 billion, putting it sixth all time, just ahead of "Spider-Man: No Way Home." Domestically, "The Way of Water" is up to $598 million.

Penn's Ukraine doc to premiere in Berlin: Sean Penn's film about the war in Ukraine, "Superpower," will have its world premier at this year's Berlin film festival, organizers said Monday. The documentary will run outside the main competition at the event slated for Feb. 16 to 26.

Jan. 24 birthdays: Singer Ray Stevens is 84. Singer Aaron Neville is 82. Singer Neil Diamond is 82. Comedian Yakov Smirnoff is 72. Comedian Phil LaMarr is 56. Actor Matthew Lillard is 53. Actor Ed Helms is 49. Actor Christina Moses is 45. Actor Tatyana Ali is 44. Actor Carrie Coon is 42. Actor Daveed Diggs is 41. Actor Justin Baldoni is 39.

ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Woman unable to offer consent half-asleep

Dear Amy: I am a woman in a long-term relationship with a man. We have a good relationship, talking through issues and agreeing on most things. When we disagree, we communicate, clear the air and move on.

The other night, my partner woke up in the middle of the night and performed a sex act with me that I did not enjoy and would never consent to, had I been asked. I did not, in the moment, stop it or verbalize nonconsent.

I took a few days to process the incident. I then tried to discuss it with him. He said he vaguely remembers this, but claims to remember none of the details. He told me he feels bad that this happened, and I asked for time to process my feelings.

He wants to jump straight back into our usual, physically affectionate relationship, but I'm not sure that I am ready. I don't think I want that yet.

I know that he will be disappointed but respectful if I ask him to hold off on having sex, but that can't last forever. How can I continue to process my emotions about this, and work toward building emotional and physical intimacy with my partner?

I can't afford therapy right now, and I'm not sure if I even know how I feel in order to be able to talk about it with someone.

— Confused and Concerned

Dear Confused: Because this episode is way out of the norm for you two, I'd wonder why your partner did this — and why he claims not to remember. Does he have a sleep disorder? Is he taking a drug that has affected both his behavior and memory?

If so, he obviously needs to disclose this to you. If not, his memory is unacceptably vague. The issue of consent between lovers can seem complicated, but your partner performing a sex act "with" you in the middle of the night is a violation — regardless of whether you verbalized lack of consent at the time.

This is your body. Asleep or half-asleep, you were not in a position to offer or refuse consent.

Because he won't acknowledge your legitimate concern about his behavior, your partner wants to simply resume your physical relationship, but this would not resolve anything for you.

You seem to frame this as your problem to solve. It's not. You shouldn't need to "ask him to hold off on physical intimacy," as if he would be doing you a favor while you "get over" this episode. If he wants to resume an emotional and physical relationship with you, he should work to understand your reaction and rebuild trust.

I urge counseling for you. RAINN.org offers a 24-hour "helpline" where you can communicate with a volunteer counselor.

Dear Amy: This has been a problem between my husband and me. If I ask a question like, "Do you mind if I turn this program off, or are you listening to it?" he will answer "yes" or "no." These one-word answers do not make his meaning clear to me.

He says it is my fault for asking two questions, but I maintain that even a short two-word answer would make his meaning clear.

He thinks I'm being unreasonable and should limit myself to one question. I think my way of asking is only polite. Am I wrong?

— MS

Dear MS: If you want a straightforward answer, ask a simple question.

I agree with your husband that your habit of asking two potentially opposing questions ("Do you mind if I turn this off, or are you listening to it?") forces him to issue more than a one-word response.

I agree with you that your way of asking is polite. And I hope that you will both agree with me that spouses should always do their best to be generous in their communications.

Dear Amy: "Looking for Love" is a 72-year-old man who wrote about not having intimacy in his marriage for 20 years.

He'd do well to look at whether he helps his wife with household chores. If he treats her like staff at an assisted living facility, he shouldn't complain that she doesn't want to be intimate with him. That would violate her employment contract.

This suggestion is based on me being the staff at the assisted living facility that has housed my 74-year-old husband for more than three decades.

— Been There

Dear Been There: Ouch.

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Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Puppets

from Page 7

mourns its parent, uttering pitiful cries. The scene highlights the outsized level of pain that man inflicts on these magnificent animals; indeed, Moby Dick's bloodlust feels justified when he arrives with a flash of ghostly flesh and razor-sharp teeth.

Three days after the sold-out opening night of "Moby Dick," I caught the free neighborhood tour of **"My Night in the Planetarium,"** an adaptation of the children's book by Innosanto Nagara. Written and performed by Tanya Nixon-Silberg — founder of the racial justice-focused organization Little Uprisings — the play opens with a brief history of Dutch colonialism in Indonesia before introducing Nagara as a child growing up in 1970s Jakarta.

With the aid of a large pop-up book, hand puppets and a voice-over by Nagara, Nixon-Silberg explores the role of art in grassroots resistance to an oppressive dictatorship. The performance I attended was at a pop-up space tucked into a corner of Navy Pier next to Ben & Jerry's, where Nixon-Silberg had to compete with the hubbub of foot traffic and a noisy HVAC system. Nevertheless, her interactive performance successfully engaged the young audience members, including one who shouted, "Girl power!" in response to an open-ended prompt.

Next up in my three-show Saturday, I headed to the Chopin Theatre for a double bill of productions from Finland and France, respectively: "Invisible Lands" and "Anywhere." Starring Livsmedlet Theater's Ishmael Falke (puppeteer and director) and Sandrina Lindgren (choreographer and dancer), **"Invisible Lands"** transforms the performers' bodies into the physical terrain on which refugees — represented by miniature figurines — travel after leaving home. A shoulder coated in sand becomes a desert, upraised knees a mountain range and a belly, painted blue, the ocean.

Falke and Lindgren soberly bear witness to these treacherous journeys as they handle the figurines, and occasionally the performers themselves stand in for refugees. In one harrowing scene, they methodically fill two bowls with water and salt, then plunge their faces underwater for an agonizingly long time. When they come up together, gasping for air, it's a visceral reminder of the many refugees who have been lost at sea.

Ishmael Falke and Sandrina Lindgren perform Sunday in "Invisible Lands" at the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival in Chicago. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The vulnerability of the human body serves as a throughline between "Invisible Lands" and **"Anywhere,"** a production staged by France's Théâtre de L'Entrouvert and performed by Chicago puppeteers Mark Blashford and Ashwaty Chennat. Based on Henry Bauchau's novel "Oedipus on the Road," the play depicts the travels of the mythical king of Thebes when he goes into exile after discovering that he unwittingly killed his father and married his mother.

Here, Oedipus is a marionette made of ice — a fragile figure small enough for his loyal daughter, Antigone (Chennat), to carry in her arms. As they creep across a stage slick with ice and rain, Oedipus gradually melts while Antigone desperately tries to hold on to him. Unlike its ephemeral protagonist, this melancholy production will live on after its Chicago premiere; the festival plans to bring "Anywhere" on a national tour with its U.S.-based ensemble.

To wrap up the weekend, I saw the opening performance of **"Grand Panorama"** at the Harold Washington Library's Cindy Pritzker Auditorium. Designed and directed by New York-based artist Theodora Skipitares, the show draws on the lectures and writings of Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. Du Bois, who both believed in the power of photography to convey the humanity of its subjects and the breadth of the African American experience.

Skipitares employs a range of techniques including oversized puppets, shadow puppetry and, of course, panorama to explore the early days of photography and what the medium meant to Douglass — the most photographed American of the 19th century — and to Du Bois, who compiled and exhibited around 400 photos of African Americans and displayed them at the 1900 Paris Exposition. Jumping ahead in time, the final scene addresses the state of 21st century facial recognition technology and the ways in which this ostensibly objective tool actually depends on the white-centric data that informs it.

Most of the festival's productions run for only a few days, so it won't be possible to replicate the lineup that I attended. However, there are still many promising shows to catch in the final week, including a South African version of "Hamlet," a Canadian deconstruction of "Macbeth," and an adaptation of the popular Brazilian novel "Macunaíma." (The festival finale, a production of "Frankenstein" by acclaimed Chicago-based company Manual Cinema, is now sold out.) In addition, a pop-up Puppet Hub is open daily at the Fine Arts Building, with exhibits that include puppets, photography, models and sets.

Puppetry is a niche genre that even the most avid theatergoer may be unfamiliar with, and the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival presents an excellent opportunity to sample a vast range of artistry from around the world. Fortunately, the festival has moved to an annual schedule beginning this year, so Chicagoans won't have to wait too long for it to come around again. In the meantime, get thee to a puppet show before the 2023 festival closes.

The 5th Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival runs through Jan. 29 at various venues across Chicago. Visit ChicagoPuppetFest.org for schedules and tickets.

Emily McClanathan is a freelance critic.

Safety

from Page 7

that he did his job by relying "on the professionals with whom he worked, who assured him the gun did not have live rounds."

Santa Fe District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwies disagrees.

"It is incumbent on anybody that holds a gun to make sure that it is either not loaded or to know what it is loaded with," she said in an interview. "And certainly then to not point it at someone and pull the trigger. That's where (the actor's) liability, we think, comes in."

She also emphasized that while Baldwin is to be charged as the man with the gun in his hand, his role as a producer — and at least partial responsibility for the lax conditions that led to his having a loaded gun — were a consideration in deciding to bring the charges.

Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, who oversaw the film's firearms, will also be charged with involuntary manslaughter, the district attorney said.

Her attorney Jason Bowles said in a statement that they would "bring the full truth to light" and that she "will be exonerated of wrongdoing by a jury."

Technology may take the safety question out of actors' hands entirely in the future. Productions were already using digital effects to simulate the flash and bang of gunfire more often, but Hutchins' death has almost certainly sped the change along.

"There are a lot of bad ways that digital takes over, but this is a good way," said Spencer Parsons, an associate professor and head of production at Northwestern University in the School of Communication's department of Radio/Television/Film in Illinois who has worked as a director and in other roles on many sets. "I'm not saying that there's no good reason to use real pyrotechnics, but in terms of basic safety and speed, this makes sense."

And when it comes to hardware, companies have been making increasingly convincing replicas, essentially enhanced BB guns with moving parts that behave like pistols but don't fire bullets. Muzzle flashes and sounds are added in post-production.

But, Parsons said, "there's not a lot of replicas for some of the antique stuff" used in Westerns and other period movies, which he specializes in.

Other solutions that have been sought for sets might be misguided and may not help.

In the days immediately after the shooting, much media discussion surrounded the dangers of blank rounds in guns, based on the assumption that one of them killed Hutchins.

"From experience, I knew it was more than that," Dillon said. "But the immediate reaction in the industry was to try to cancel the use of blanks altogether."

Dillon said dummy rounds, prop bullets used in scenes where characters are shown loading guns, are more likely to result in mistakes like what happened on "Rust," since they look like live ammunition and could be confused with them.

He said he found that "frustrating because that can accidentally impart to the crew that we've been ignorant" and previously kept them in unnecessary danger.

When investigators revealed it was actually a live round, the fear of blanks, which can certainly be dangerous at very close range, still remains.

In addition, Parsons said that it was misguided to blame the shooting on the fact that "Rust" was a small-budget independent production. He said the pace and length of large studio productions can put crews in positions where accidents of all kinds can become more likely.

"In some cases, they can put people through even longer hours, and the need for speed is even greater," he said. "That can be very, very dangerous. The need for speed on any set incentives behavior that's not always the best for safety."

Gutierrez-Reed's dual role as armorer and assistant props supervisor has also received negative attention.

But Dillon said the overlap of weapons and props is inevitable, and such dual roles happen often. The crew members playing those roles just need to be utterly clear when they're playing which role.

"When the guns come out, that's all I'm worried about," he said, "and that's all I'm working on."

What to watch

TUESDAY

January 24, 2023

All times Central. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

How I Met Your Father

Hulu ■ Season Premiere

The sitcom spinoff of How I Met Your Mother returns for Season Two. Hilary Duff, Christopher Lowell and Francia Raisa lead the cast. New episodes drop Tuesdays starting today.

Physical: 100

Netflix ■ New Series

One hundred contestants in top physical shape compete to claim the honor of having the ultimate physique in this intense survival reality series from Korea.

The Rookie

ABC, 7 p.m.

In "Daddy Cop," amid a heat wave and citywide blackout, Officer Nolan (Nathan Fillion) and Aaron (Tru Valentino) follow some leads after they discover criminals hiding at the station, and Officer Chen (Melissa O'Neil) makes an alarming discovery.

FBI

CBS, 7 p.m.

After a mysterious bioweapon leaves two transit workers dead and one injured, the team rushes to determine who is behind the attack and the location of their next target in the new episode "Breakdown."

9-1-1: Lone Star

FOX, 7 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The drama surrounding a team of first responders in Austin, Texas, is back for Season Four tonight. Rob Lowe, Gina Torres, Ronen Rubinstein and Sierra McClain star.

Night Court

NBC, 7 p.m.

In "Just Tuesday," after Abby (Melissa Rauch) makes a mistake in the courtroom, she decides to adopt an all-business approach to get things back on track, but her new style catches everyone off guard.

Finding Your Roots With Henry Louis Gates Jr.

PBS, 7 p.m.

In "Far From Home," Henry Louis Gates Jr. maps the family trees of pop icon Cyndi Lauper and actors Jamie Chung and Danny Trejo, exploring records in Italy, Korea and Mexico to uncover ancestors whose stories were lost when their families immigrated to America.

American Auto

NBC, 7:30 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

The workplace comedy from Superstore creator Justin Spitzer returns for Season Two. Set at an auto company in Detroit, the series is led by Ana Gasteyer, Harriet Dyer and Jon Barinholtz.

Accused

FOX, 8 p.m.

Marlee Matlin makes her directorial debut in the new episode "Ava's Story," involving a deaf surrogate (Stephanie Nogueras) who is forced to take protective action. Megan Boone and Aaron Ashmore also star.

American Masters: 'Roberta Flack'

PBS, 8 p.m.

This film traces music icon Robert Flack's journey from her start in a piano lounge to her rise to stardom thanks to iconic performances of classics like "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" and "Killing Me Softly." Flack's virtuosity was inseparable from her commitment to civil rights, and her story is detailed here in her own words, enhanced by access to her archives as well as interviews with the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Peabo Bryson and more.

'That Dirty Black Bag'

STEFANO C. MONTESI, AMC+

Will Trent

ABC, 9 p.m.

In "My Stupid Detective Brain," with two dead victims and very few answers, Will (Ramon Rodriguez) and the GBI investigate a call from the state park police alongside the APD. Will also makes some strides in his partnership with Faith (Iantha Richardson).

That Dirty Black Bag

AMC, 10 p.m. ■ New Series

Remember, a head weighs less than a body when it comes to hauling around that dirty black bag. AMC's gritty spaghetti Western tells a story over eight long days following the encounter and clash between two men: McCoy (Dominic Cooper), an apparently incorruptible sheriff with a dark past, and Red Bill (Douglas Booth), a dirty, taciturn bounty killer trapped in a desire for vengeance that cannot be fulfilled.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Star of the Month: Marion Davies

TCM, Beginning at 7 p.m.

Turner Classic Movies' final evening celebrating the films of iconic actor Marion Davies includes a number of the last movies she made before retiring in the late 1930s. The five-title lineup features: the drama **Peg o' My Heart** (1933); the romantic comedy **Page Miss Glory** (1935); **Cain and Mabel (pictured),** a 1936 rom-com co-starring Clark Gable; **Hearts Divided** (1936), a musical about the real-life romance between American Elizabeth Patterson (Davies) and Jerome Bonaparte (Dick Powell), brother of Napoleon Bonaparte (Claude Rains); and **Ever Since Eve** (1937), a romantic comedy co-starring Robert Montgomery, which was Davies' final film.

ALEX STEWART SASHA

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE

SCOTT GARFIELD

Killer Advice (2021, Suspense) Kate Watson, Meredith Thomas **LMN, 5 p.m.**

Love on Harbor Island (2020, Romance) Morgan Kohan, Marcus Rosner **Hallmark, 5 p.m.**

Francesca Quinn, PI (2022, Mystery) Mallory Jansen, Dylan Bruce **Hallmark Movies & Mysteries, 6 p.m.**

Why Him? (2016, Comedy) James Franco, Bryan Cranston **FXM, 6 p.m.**

Dating the Delaneys (2022, Romance) Rachel Boston, Paul Campbell **Hallmark, 7 p.m.**

How to Live Your Best Death (2022, Suspense) Danielle Baez, Alissa Filoramo **LMN, 7 p.m.**

The Green Hornet (2011, Action) Seth Rogen, Jay Chou **SYFY, 7 p.m.**

Tombstone (1993, Western) Kurt Russell, Val Kilmer **AMC, 7 p.m.**

Central Intelligence (2016, Action) Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart **Freeform, 7:30 p.m.**

Like a Boss (2020, Comedy) Tiffany Haddish, Rose Byrne **VH1, 8 p.m.**

My Nightmare Office Affair (2022, Horror) Laurie Fortier, Marc Herrmann **LMN, 9 p.m.**

Dirty Dancing (1987, Romance) Jennifer Grey, Patrick Swayze **Paramount, 9:30 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

TCM	★★★ Grey Gardens ('75, Documentary) Former socialites become recluses in decrepit mansion.				★★★ La Promesse ('96, Drama) (Jérémie Renier) A teenager befriends a widowed illegal i			
TLC	My Knees N		Skin/Peeling N		My Baby Weighs N		Body/Shal	
TNT	NBA Basketball Washington Wizards at Boston Celtics. N					In NBA N	★★★ Shar	
TRAVEL	Delicious	Delicious	Bizarre Foods/Zimmern		Best Bars	Best Bars	Delicious	
TRU	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Joker	

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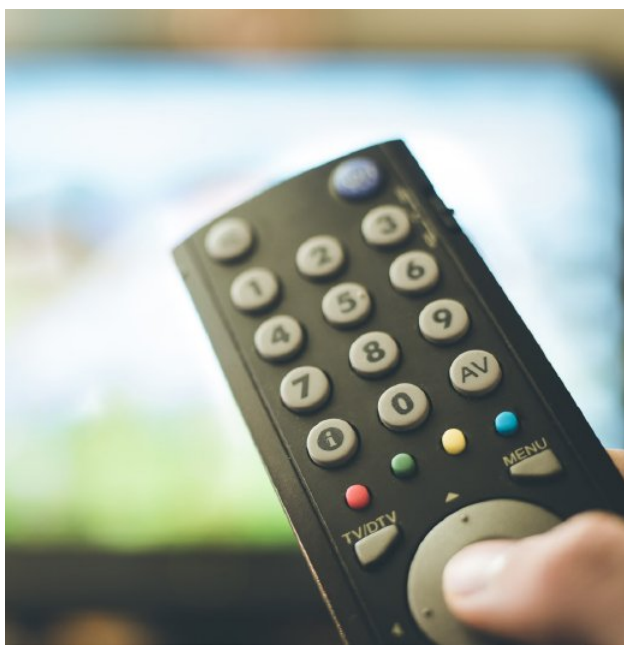
TV Q&A

Isn't there law limiting how loud commercials can air?

By Rich Heldenfels
Tribune News Service



The Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation Act requires commercials to have the same average volume as the programming they accompany. **DREAMSTIME**

Q: Isn't there a law that commercials can't be too loud? It isn't like that when I watch TV.

A: There are rules, although they aren't as useful as you would think. Federal law includes the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation (CALM) Act from a decade ago. FCC rules then apply the law's standards to "TV stations, cable operators, satellite TV providers or other multichannel video program distributors (MVPDs)."

However, the law "does not set an absolute cap on loudness. Rather, it requires commercials to have the same average volume as the programming they accompany, so that the volume a consumer chooses is the one at which both the programming and the advertisements will air." Then why doesn't everything sound the same? Look at the word "average."

As I understand the rules, the average loudness of the commercial is measured by averaging the loudness of all components of the sound (dialogue, background music and so on) over the length of the commercial. Then, the average loudness of the program is measured by averaging the loudness over the length of the program. If you come out of a quiet scene into a commercial, it may be loud compared to what you've just been listening to, but not loud on average.

You can find out more about this, including how to file a complaint with the FCC, at fcc.gov/media/policy/loud-commercials.

Q: Has "SEAL Team" been renewed for another season? I enjoy the show and all the issues that they address about the military. The last season seemed to hint that they would not be back.

A: The drama has been picked up for a seventh season on Paramount+, which also has the first six seasons — both those that premiered on CBS and those that started on Paramount+. The announced returning cast includes David Boreanaz as Jason Hayes, Neil Brown Jr. as Ray Perry, A.J. Buckley as Sonny Quinn, Toni Trucks as Lisa Davis and Raffi Barsoumian as Omar Hamza.

Q: Is "The Blacklist" gone for good or will it be returning?

A: The thriller starring James Spader will be back for its 10th season starting Feb. 26 on NBC.

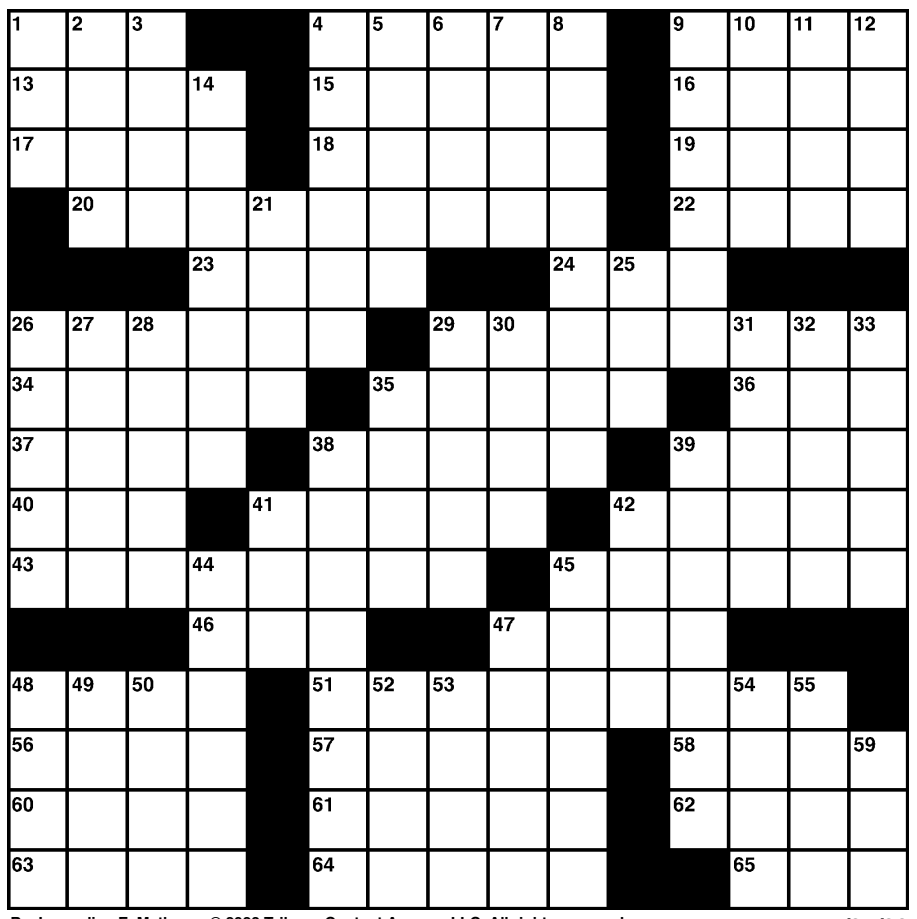
Q: There was a TV show back in the '50s named "The Man Called X" that I really enjoyed watching. It starred Barry Sullivan as X and was probably the first spy show on television. I'd love to watch it again. Where can I find it?

A: In the beginning, there was the radio show "The Man Called X," airing from 1944 to 1952, with Herbert Marshall as the agent in the title. A television version followed for a single season in 1956-57; as you remembered, Barry Sullivan was X on TV. A search for old TV episodes just unearthed some on YouTube.

As for the first TV spy idea, Guinness World Records gives that honor to "Shadow of the Cloak," a series on the DuMont network in 1951-52. It's also worth mentioning the first screen portrayal of James Bond was in a 1954 episode of the drama anthology "Climax!" On that series, Barry Nelson played an Americanized Bond in an adaptation of "Casino Royale."

Do you have a question or comment about entertainment past, present and future? Write to Rich Heldenfels, P.O. Box 417, Mogadore, OH 44260, or brenfels@gmail.com. Letters may be edited.

Crossword



By Jacqueline E. Mathews. © 2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved. 1/24/23

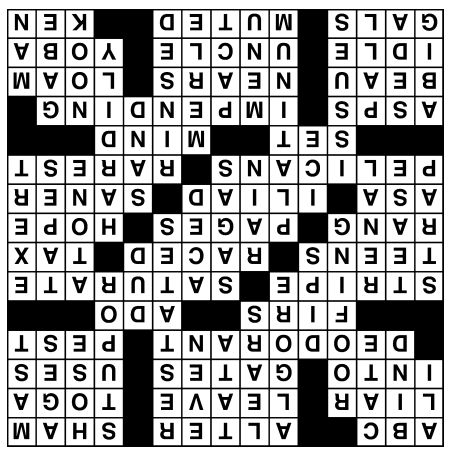
ACROSS

1 "Big Sky" network
4 Change slightly
9 Feigned; not genuine
13 One not to be trusted
15 Depart
16 Loose Roman gown
17 Five __ five is one
18 Microsoft's Bill
19 Takes advantage of
20 Item in a gym bag
22 Pain in the neck
23 Forest trees
24 Hoopla
26 Band of color
29 Soak
34 High schoolers
35 Sprinted
36 Money for Uncle Sam
37 Chimed
38 Senate gofers
39 Optimism
40 As dumb __ box of rocks
41 Trojan War epic
42 Not as goofy
43 New Orleans team
45 Hardest to come by
46 __ out; begin a journey
47 Kept in __; remembered
48 Vipers
51 About to happen
56 Boyfriend
57 Approaches
58 Rich soil
60 Doing nothing
61 Dad's brother
62 Actor Malik __
63 "Buffalo __, won't you come out tonight…"
64 Silenced
65 Jennings of "Jeopardy!"

DOWN

1 Muhammad __
2 Predicament
3 Ms. Blanchett
4 VP before Dick Cheney
5 Producer Norman's family
6 "Ciao!"
7 __ though; albeit
8 Phrases differently
9 Daze
10 Stockings
11 Periods of time
12 Ship pole
14 Installing a housetop
21 Hors d'oeuvres table bowlfuls
25 Failure
26 Saddle fastener
27 Rib
28 Of the kidneys
29 Lengthy stories
30 __ a test; passed easily
31 Observe Yom Kippur
32 VCR inserts
33 __ oneself; try hard
35 April forecast
38 Element whose symbol is Pt
39 Vigorously
41 Cold cubes
42 Beach castle material
44 Personal hang-ups
45 Hosed down
47 Singer Haggard
48 "Speak softly and carry __ stick"
49 Actor Jon
50 Feeling of gloom
52 Waiter's offering
53 Treaty
54 Kitchen recess
55 Actor Kaplan
59 Beard wearer

Solutions



Horoscopes

Today's birthday (Jan. 24): Connect, network and collaborate this year. Determination, self-discipline and practice can realize a personal dream. Adjust around winter changes at home for surging springtime brilliance, creativity and diplomacy. Summer brings a career shift, before autumn explorations yield their valuable rewards. Share your amazing story.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is a 6. Illusions fade and new realities appear. You may not want the same things you did before. Revise bucket lists, goals and ambitions.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 8. Share support to overcome a challenge. Pull together for practical bonds. Keep a cool head despite unexpected circumstances.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 8. Take care of business. Intuition reveals an opportunity. Think fast, without making impetuous moves. Play by the book. Consider options you previously rejected.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 7. Expand horizons. Learn a new skill or language. Explore and discover. Stick to your budget. Inject creativity and divine inspiration into your educational mix.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 7. Things may not go as planned. Unexpected expenses could arise. Intuition reveals a positive direction. Collaborate for shared gain. Luck follows disciplined actions.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 8. Collaborate for an inspiring possibility. Create partnership and romance with words and actions. Share respect and esteem. Advance shared passions.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 8. Don't push against a brick wall. Look for ways around. Research the situation. Take actions to support your work and health. Disciplined efforts pay extra.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 8. Romantic cables could get crossed. Keep your patience despite interruptions, challenges or surprises. Love provides a lifeline. Hang on and don't let go.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 7. Discover an unusual solution for a domestic breakdown. Make repairs quickly where water is concerned. Clean, reorganize and rearrange furnishings for beautiful results.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 8. Find the pieces and investigate clues to put together a curious puzzle. Write a bad rough draft. Edit and shape. Luck follows disciplined action.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 8. Keep cash flowing in a positive direction despite deviations, delays or blockages. Stick to your plan and improve efficiency.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 8. Go for what you truly want. You're ready to make changes for the better. Assertiveness works well now. Make a beautiful transformation.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater By Scott Hilburn

DANGIT, JIM – I ASKED YOU TO CLEAN THE GARAGE! I'VE TRIPPED AND FALLEN OVER ONE OF YOUR BLASTED TOOLS AND CAN'T GET UP. DO YOU HEAR ME, JIM? JIM??!
"OLD YELLER" – THE NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN FIRST EDIT
1/24
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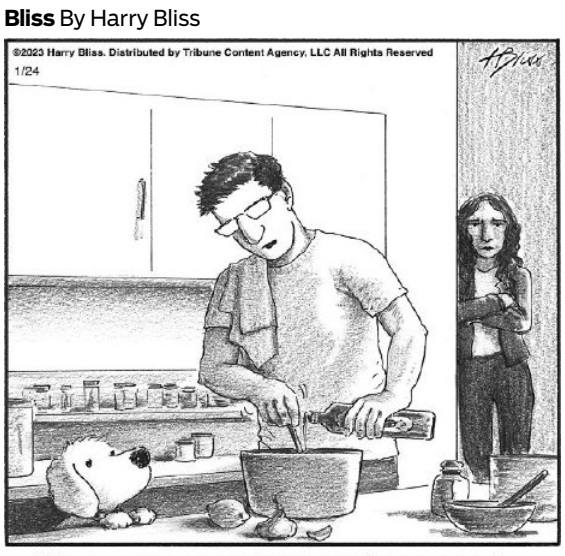
Bliss By Harry Bliss



"The secret to a perfect pesto is never letting Mommy in the kitchen."

Bridge

Both vulnerable, South deals

North
♠ A 9
♥ A 9 4
♦ 10 7 6 5
♣ 10 9 6 2

West
♠ Void
♥ Q J 10 8 7
♦ J 9 8 2
♣ Q 8 7 3

East
♠ 10 8 7 6 4
♥ K 6 5 3
♦ Q 3
♣ K J

South
♠ K Q J 5 3 2
♥ 2
♦ A K 4
♣ A 5 4

We haven't visited our friends at the club's Saturday night duplicate in a while, but they were hard at work when Hard Luck Louie declared this deal. He won the opening heart lead with dummy's ace and counted what he thought were 10 easy tricks. He cashed dummy's ace of spades and learned that 10 tricks would be a problem due to the horrid split in trumps.

Louie ruffed a heart in hand, followed by the ace, king of diamonds and the ace of clubs. He exited with a diamond to West's jack as East shed a low heart. West did not make the mistake of leading another heart. He correctly led a club to East's king. East exited with the 10 of spades to Louie, who led his last club. West won as East shed his king of hearts and Louie could not make his contract. "I hate my life," said Louie. "Four spades was colder than cold, almost, and I still went down."

When Lucky Larry played this deal, he also won the heart lead with dummy's ace. He immediately ruffed a heart in hand and then led the king of spades. Had both opponents followed, he would have drawn the trumps and claimed 10 tricks. When West showed out, however, he cashed the ace and king of diamonds, and the ace of clubs. He crossed to dummy with the ace of spades and ruffed another heart in hand. He claimed two more tricks with his two high spades and scored up his contract. Technique!

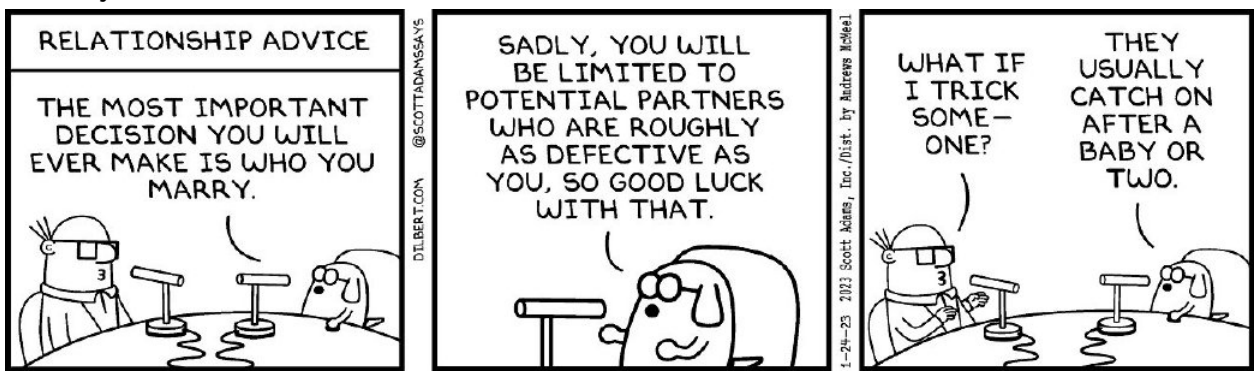
The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♥

— Bob Jones
Tribune Content Agency

Dilbert By Scott Adams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SADLY, YOU WILL BE LIMITED TO POTENTIAL PARTNERS WHO ARE ROUGHLY AS DEFECTIVE AS YOU, SO GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
1-24-23 2023 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel
WHAT IF I TRICK SOME-ONE?
THEY USUALLY CATCH ON AFTER A BABY OR TWO.

Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott (Baby Blues is on vacation until January 30. Please enjoy this strip from 2019.)

OKAY, HAMMIE, I WANT YOU TO TELL ME EVERYTHING.
AND REMEMBER, THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE.
HA!
THE LAST TIME IT SET ME FREE, I WASN'T ALLOWED OUT OF MY ROOM ALL DAY.
babyblues.com
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1/24

Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman

ARE YOU GOING TO THE MARKET?
YES. DO YOU WANT SOMETHING?
YEAH. YOU KNOW THE BIG AISLE WITH ALL OF THE SALTY SNACK STUFF?
GET THAT.
ONE BAG OF CARROT STICKS. GOT IT.
zitscomics.com
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SCOTT and BORGMAN 1-24

Mr. Boffo By Joe Martin

UNCLEAR ON THE CONCEPT
DON'T GET ME WRONG, DOCTOR EINSTEIN.. YOUR "ATOM BOMB" THEORY IS NOVEL AND VERY UNIQUE...
BUT WE'RE INTERESTED IN BLOWING UP BIG THINGS
2023.JoeMartin.Dist.ByNeatlyChiseledFeatures
ANIMATIONS/ARCHIVES at MRBOFFO.COM
JOE MARTIN 1-24-23

Frazz By Jef Mallett

1-24
©2023 Jef Mallett/Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
PEOPLE TALK ABOUT "DRY JANUARY" LIKE IT'S SOMETHING NEW.
I'VE GOT THE HUMIDIFIER TURNED UP AS FAR AS IT WILL GO.
MALLETT

Classic Peanuts By Charles Schulz

FOR "SHOW AND TELL" TODAY I HAVE BROUGHT MY PET ROCK..
MY PET ROCK IS AN EXCELLENT GOLFER... HIS FAVORITE COURSE IS "PEBBLE BEACH"!
1/24
HAHAHAHA!
YOU HAVE A PRETTY DULL GROUP HERE, MA'AM
SCHULZ

Pickles By Brian Crane

THIS IS A TRICERATOPS, ROSCOE.
THEY LOOKED REAL MEAN, BUT THEY WERE ACTUALLY HARMLESS.
OUCH! OUCH!! OUCH!!
1/24
UNLESS YOU STEPPED ON THEM.
©2023 Brian Crane, dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
pricklecity.com

Dick Tracy By Joe Staton and Mike Curtis

HERE'S THE NEW DEAL. I GET HALF THE TAKE FROM THE DA VINCI, OR I BLOW YOU OFF TO THE COPS.
THIS IS ALL HEARSAY!
I FOUND A LOT ON YOU IN THIS APARTMENT. I'LL BE IN TOUCH WHEN THE AUCTION'S OVER. DON'T TRY TO FIND ME OR I'LL HAVE TO CALL KRYPTONITE.
1/24
PLEGER CURTIS
HAVE A NICE DAY, DEKKO.
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Animal Crackers By Mike Osbun

I'VE GOT TOO MANY THINGS ON MY MIND.
OSBUN 1-24
MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU HANG UP THE OLD THINKING CAP.
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Prickly City By Scott Stantis

HAS EVERYONE LOST THEIR COLLECTIVE MIND, CARMEN?
NOT EVERYONE...
IT SURE FEELS LIKE IT...
I TRY TO REMAIN OPTIMISTIC.
2023 SCOTT STANTIS DISTR. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL FOR JFS
1/24 PRICKLYCITY@GMAIL.COM
ALL EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY?
EVEN THEN...
STANTIS

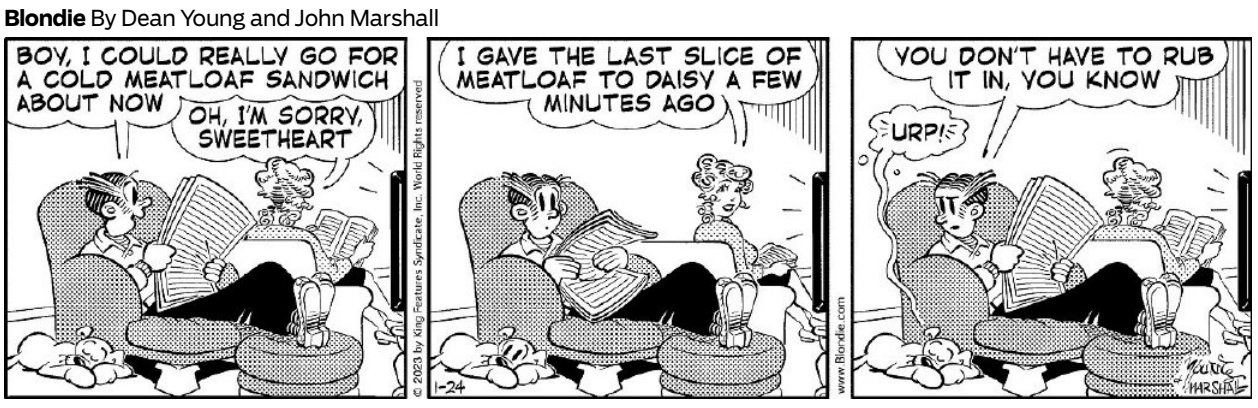
Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker

dustincomics.com
ANOTHER 50-SOMETHING ACTRESS POSING IN A BIKINI... SERIOUSLY?
KELLEY and PARKER
YOU'RE THE LAWYER, BUT I WISH INSTAGRAM WOULD IMPLEMENT A STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS...
©2023 Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker. Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.
1-24

For Better or for Worse By Lynn Johnston

HOW'S APRIL?
FINE... BUT THERE'S NO BUTTON YET!
I'LL HAVE TO ASK THE GIRLS AT THE DAY CARE CENTER TO WATCH OUT FOR IT.
BUTTON IN MY TUMMY, BUTTON IN MY TUMMY ♪
01-24 www.fborfw.com
NO PROBLEM, MRS. PATTERSON. WE'VE FOUND DIMES, MARBLES, DICE.... THESE KIDS WILL EAT ANYTHING!
© 2023 Lynn Johnston Productions Inc. / Dist. By Andrews McMeel Syndication
NO WANT SAGHETTIS.
LYNN

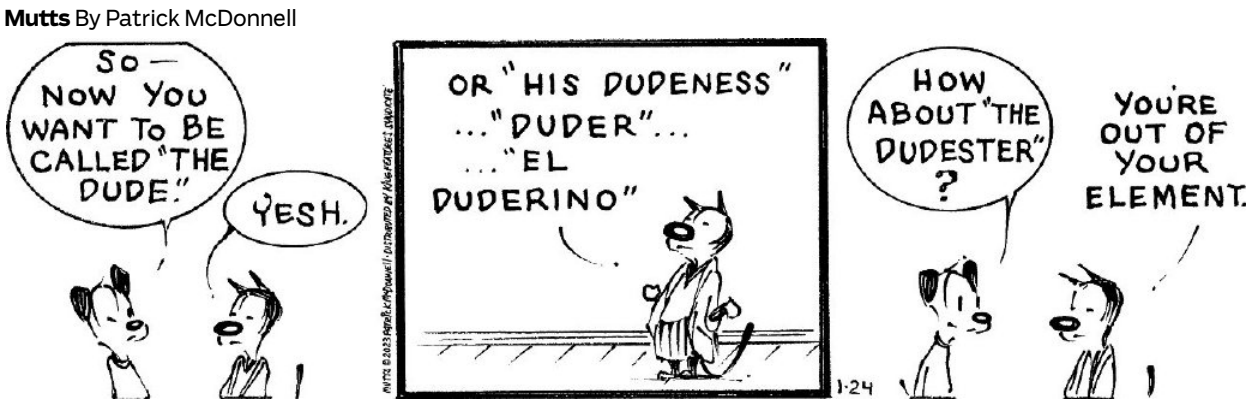
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall


BOY, I COULD REALLY GO FOR A COLD MEATLOAF SANDWICH ABOUT NOW
OH, I'M SORRY, SWEETHEART
© 2023 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World Rights reserved.
I GAVE THE LAST SLICE OF MEATLOAF TO DAISY A FEW MINUTES AGO
1-24
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUB IT IN, YOU KNOW
URP!
www.Blondie.com
DEAN YOUNG MARSHALL

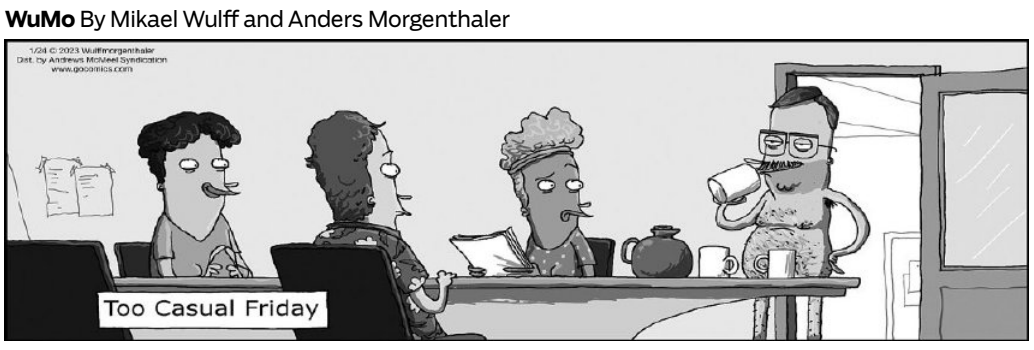
Hägar the Horrible By Chris Browne

I FEEL SORRY FOR THAT POOR FISH I CAUGHT EARLIER.
1-24
©2023 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
DID YOU COOK IT IN THAT POT OF SLOP?
YES!
NOW YOU CAN FEEL SORRY FOR ME!
BROWNE

Mutts By Patrick McDonnell


SO— NOW YOU WANT TO BE CALLED "THE DUDE."
YESH.
OR "HIS DUDENESS" ..."DUDER"... ..."EL DUDERINO"
1-24
HOW ABOUT "THE DUDESTER"?
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR ELEMENT.

WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Sherman's Lagoon By Jim Toomey

HERMAN, YOU WANT TO TRAIN BEFORE SCHOOL?
HUH?
IF YOU'RE TRYING OUT FOR A TEAM, YOU'LL NEED TO BE IN GREAT SHAPE.
UM...
WE'LL START WITH A FIVE-MILE SWIM AROUND THE LAGOON.
OR FIVE MINUTES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.
I'M LATE.
www.shermanslagoon.com
©2023 Jim Toomey. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
1-24

Brewster Rockit: Space Guy! By Tim Rickard

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION UPDATE
MY RESOLUTION IS TO READ MORE.
WHY ARE YOU WATCHING TV WITH THE CAPTIONS ON?
brewrockt@yahoo.com www.gcomics.com/brewsterrockt
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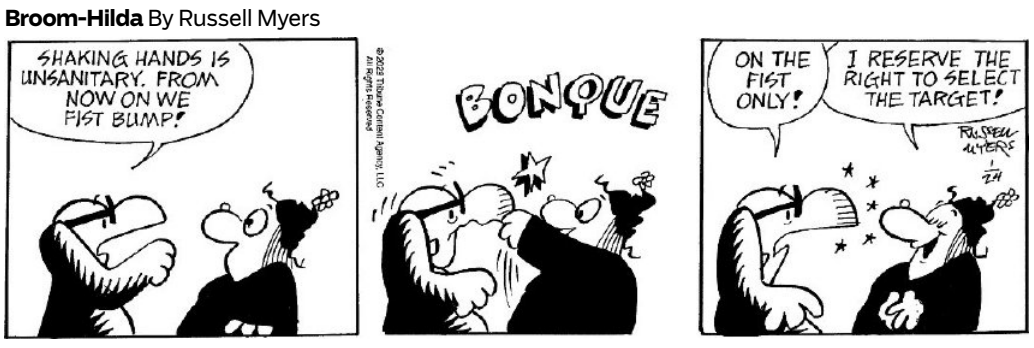
Broom-Hilda By Russell Myers


SHAKING HANDS IS UNSANITARY. FROM NOW ON WE FIST BUMP!
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BONQUE
ON THE FIST ONLY!
I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO SELECT THE TARGET!
RUSSELL MYERS
1-24

Trivia Bits

By metric tons, which country is the world's biggest producer of oranges?

A) Brazil
B) China
C) Turkey
D) United States

Monday's answer: The Washington Monument resembles an Egyptian obelisk.

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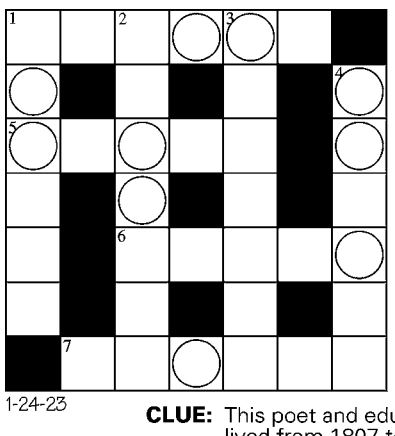
Jumble Crossword



1-24-23

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Cower, recoil	ENGCRI
5. Raises	SLFIT
6. Severe, intense	ECAUT
7. Most recent	NWESET

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Lassie breed	EILLCO
2. Anger, aggravate	NEMAFIL
3. Hand ___	RSUEGET
4. Alive the longest	DSEOTL

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

CLUE: This poet and educator lived from 1807 to 1882.

BONUS

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ANSWERS: 1A-Cringe 5A-Lifts 6A-Acute 7A-Newest 1D-Collie 2D-Inflame 3D-Gesture 4D-Oldest B-Longfellow

By David L. Hoyt.

Sudoku 1234

1/24

9						7		
8	4			7			6	
2				5				9
			1			3	4	
	6			8			5	
	5	3			2			
6				3				5
	8			9			3	7
		7						8

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

4	3	5	7	8	6	9	1	2
6	8	9	1	2	5	7	3	4
1	7	2	9	4	3	8	5	6
7	2	6	3	1	4	5	9	8
5	1	3	8	9	2	4	6	7
8	9	4	5	6	7	3	2	1
2	5	8	4	3	1	6	7	9
3	4	1	6	7	9	2	8	5
9	6	7	2	5	8	1	4	3

Monday's solutions

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Jumble

Unscramble the four Jumbles, one letter per square, to form four words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.

RNWOS

SPOIE

NTEHLG

GPOAAD

The horse's fly gave it a try, but Fido's flea is the winner for me!
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble
1/24
IF WESTMINSTER'S COMPETITION WAS FOR INSECTS, THE WINNER WOULD BE ---

Answer here

" " " "

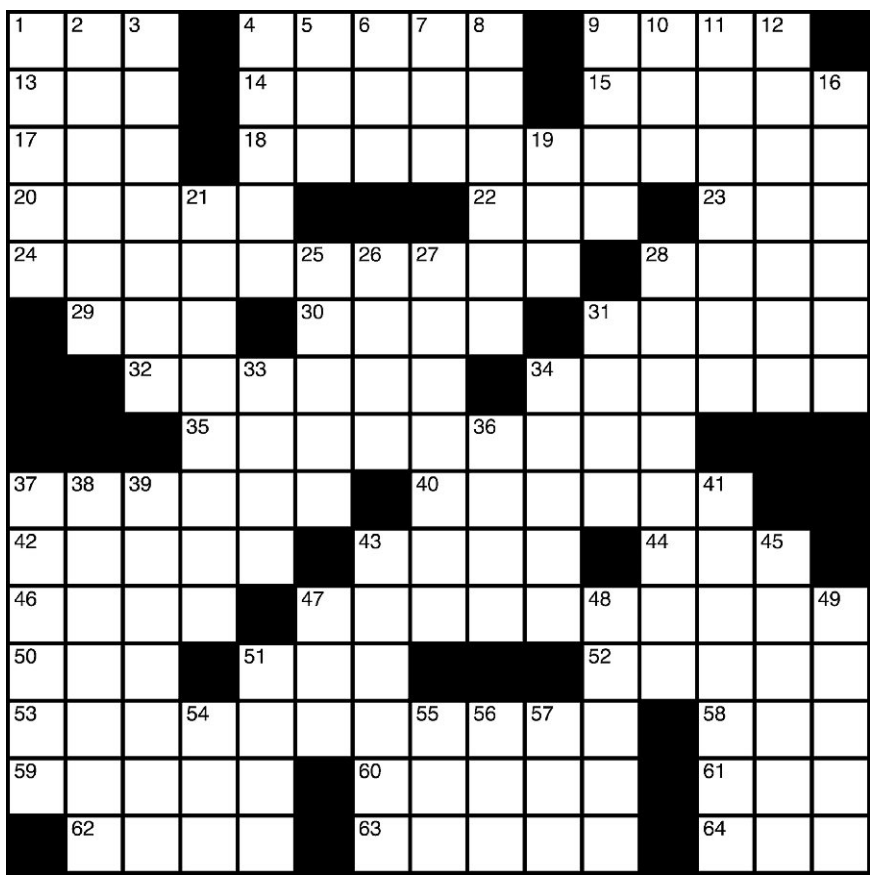
Monday's answers

Jumbles: SIGHT CLASH KARATE ENCORE
Answer: The psychiatrist dried her clothes on low heat because she didn't want to — SEE A SHRINK

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved. PlayJumble.com

Crossword

1/24



Across

1 Cert. for some babysitters
4 Golden St. region
9 Chase a fly, maybe
13 Summer arrival
14 "Sweet Love" singer Baker
15 Maker of G-Shock watches
17 Sci-fi invaders
18 *Traditional Thanksgiving entree
20 Venezuelan cornmeal cake
22 "Big Blue"
23 Certain sib
24 *Feature of anxiety, often
28 N. Dak. neighbor
29 Egyptian boy king
30 Novelist Jaffe
31 Mean monster
32 Cultural no-nos
34 Successful dogcatcher, e.g.
35 *The "order" part of a "Law & Order" episode
37 "Or even less"
40 Hardly fresh
42 Alexander Hamilton's birth island
43 __-false test
44 This minute
46 Trashy place?
47 *Piano lesson pages
50 Words of agreement
51 Big part of an alligator
52 Bygone anesthetic
53 "Enough already!" or what one may do to each answer to a starred clue
58 "How Easy Is That?" cookbook writer Garten
59 Aromatic bulb
60 Brief appearance in a film
61 Tony winner Vereen
62 Group after boomers
63 City considered Japan's cultural capital
64 Biblical craft

Down

1 See-through
2 Domesticated rodent
3 Circular diamond shape
4 See-through wrap
5 Grammy-winning Yoko
6 "Homeland" org.
7 @ signs
8 Sonia Sotomayor, for one
9 Film on a pond
10 "This means __!"
11 Invites to dinner, maybe
12 Connect with
16 Raw bar mollusk
19 Letters on an incomplete schedule
21 Crunchy hummus scooper
25 Backsplash binder
26 "Wuthering Heights" setting
27 About to happen
28 Nattily dressed snack food mascot
31 Rager
33 Feathery accessories
34 Military rookie
36 Whodunit board game
37 "Closer to Fine" duo __ Girls
38 In a row?
39 Lifetime channel offering
41 Japanese electronics giant
43 Hitting sound
45 Ballpark frank
47 Won at musical chairs
48 "I feel the same way"
49 Curmudgeon
51 Curse
54 Geologic time unit
55 Line in a child's drawing of the sun
56 Full of feelings
57 "Quiet on the __!"

Monday's solution

By Rebecca Goldstein. Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis. © 2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Want more PUZZLES? Go to chicagotribune.com/games

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at ***PlayJumble.com***

Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

		9		8		1	6	
8				7				
		4	9					
5					8		1	7
		8				5		
2	4		7		1			8
					2	3		
				4				1
	6	5		1		4		

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk.*

9	2	4	7	1	8	5	6	3
1	5	8	3	4	6	7	2	9
6	7	3	2	9	5	1	8	4
8	9	6	1	5	7	3	4	2
4	3	5	6	9	2	8	7	1
7	1	2	8	3	4	6	9	5
3	8	7	5	2	9	4	1	6
5	4	9	6	7	1	2	3	8
2	6	1	4	8	3	9	5	7

5/1/18

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BOGGLE

Boggle® BrainBusters!™ BUPHWOLSGOKEAGLM

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

T N I L
E R O M
N A E L
T G T S

10-31-20

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www.bogglebrainbusters.com

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE

- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 6 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE® RATING

151+ = Champ
101-150 = Expert
61-100 = Pro
31-60 = Gamer
21-30 = Rookie
11-20 = Amateur
0-10 = Try again

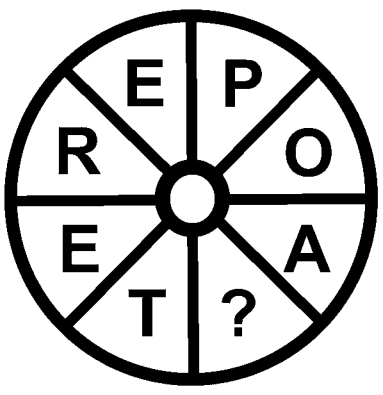
Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FIVE CITRUS FRUITS in the grid of letters.

LIME LEMON ORANGE TANGELO TANGERINE

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

OPERETTA

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: words with 'ice' 207

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

F N B S S N F Y M O H D E C I L S N
Z N J E K E G E E P O U L T I C E Z
X I U G C R C N S H H V P J V E E G
B Z I O E I T I A V E E Z K B C C D
I Z C B L I R S V R B S P W I I I G
P E E O C J U A M E V N S N R L V T
U C P E E F E I V E D E O P S A D R
I I D C F C C S C A C C T T I H A I
W T A I E E I S E R V I C E I C G C
B N C U L C F D B C E L M B C C E E
I E E L A H I M N O I V Z U Y G E S
N R I S T N R F R U D O I G P O C D
V P Y N T V O O I T A I V C F V I A
O P E C I P S O H D X J C F E E T K
I A C E C M A E R C E C I E X S S P
C D I C E D J U S T I C E I C I L Y
E I R W S M U G I C E L A N D V O W
A S P L I C E R E J O I C E D Z S H

ADVICE
APPRENTICE
AVARICE
BODICE
CHALICE
CREVICES
DEVICES
EDIFICE
ENTICED
DICED
HOSPICE
ICE CREAM
ICEBERG
ICELAND
ICILY
INVOICE
JAUNDICE
JUICE
JUSTICE
LATTICES
LICENSE
NICE
NOTICED
OFFICE
ORIFICE
POLICE
POULTICE
PRICE
PUMICE
REJOICED
SERVICE
SLICED
SLUICE
SOLSTICE
SPICES
SPLICE
SUFFICE
TRICE
VERMICELLI
VOICES

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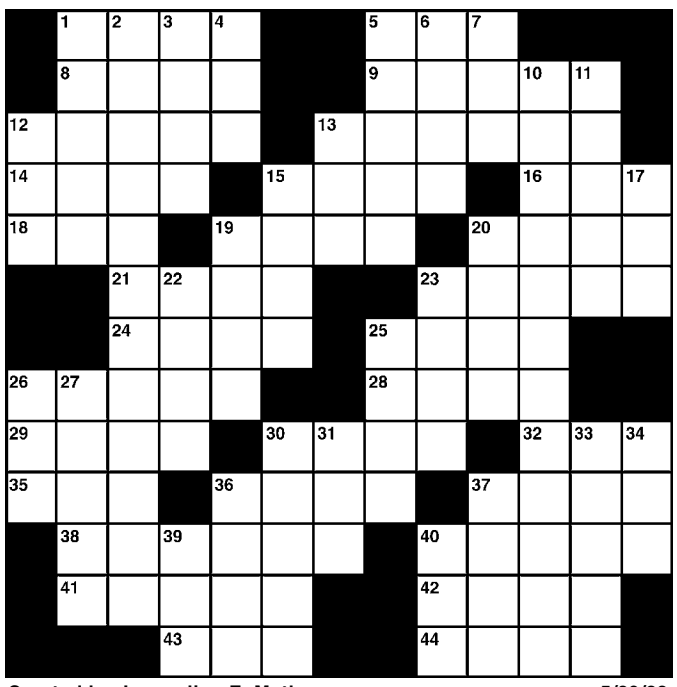
TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 5/29/22

ACROSS

1 "__ Betty"
5 "__ in the Family"
8 Actor Scott
9 "__ John Malkovich"; John Cusack movie
12 "The __ of Being a Wallflower"; 2012 film
13 "Welcome Back, __"
14 Actor Gross
15 Costello & Ferrigno
16 Suffix for cook, book or rook
18 90 degrees from ESE
19 "Heaven Can __"; Warren Beatty movie
20 "Boy, Did __ a Wrong Number!"; Bob Hope film
21 "__ See Clearly Now"
23 Skier Phil
24 Alan or Cheryl
25 Shot up with Novocain
26 Actress Berry
28 Casual farewell
29 Pennsylvania port
30 Lion's den
32 __ room; place for a pool table
35 Greek letter
36 Pieces of china
37 Captain in "Moby Dick"
38 "Deep __"; Duvall/Leoni film
40 Actress Marcia
41 Schoolkid's composition
42 __ vera; lotion ingredient
43 Shut-__; those confined at home
44 Stewart & Steiger

DOWN

1 Hired cars
2 Chris Redd's role on "Kenan"
3 "What I __ About You"
4 Greetings from Stallone
5 "Mad __ You"
6 "__ Make a Deal"
7 Enkindled
10 "The __"; series for Cedric
11 Actress Garson
12 Daddies
13 Backyard pond fish
15 "Promised __"
17 Sault __. Marie
19 Loretta __; "NCIS: New Orleans" role
20 "__ Rock"; Simon & Garfunkel hit
22 Racer Yarborough
23 "The Ghost & Mrs. __" (1968-70)
25 Series for Rocky Carroll
26 "__ Haw"
27 Bandleader Shaw
30 Lawless & Liu
31 Is __ to; probably will
33 Lets up
34 "Hawaii Five-0" network
36 James or Scott
37 Woody Guthrie's son
39 Fraternity letter
40 "__ 54, Where Are You?"

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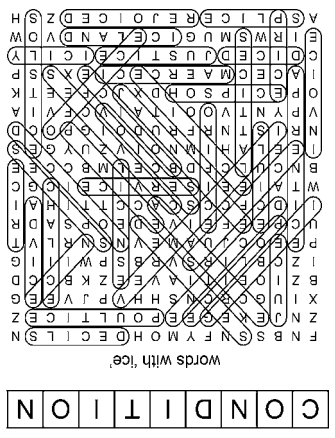
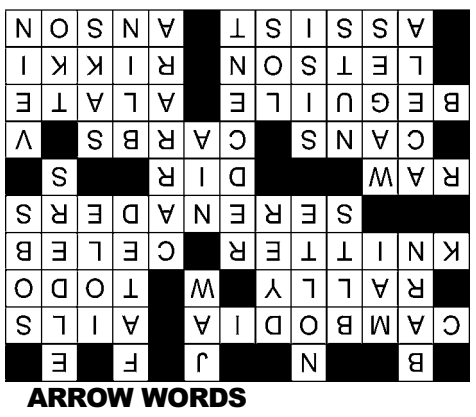


Words with 'ice'

C O N D I T I O N



JUMBLE

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SYFIH

RBBUL

COHLTB

PITETO

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

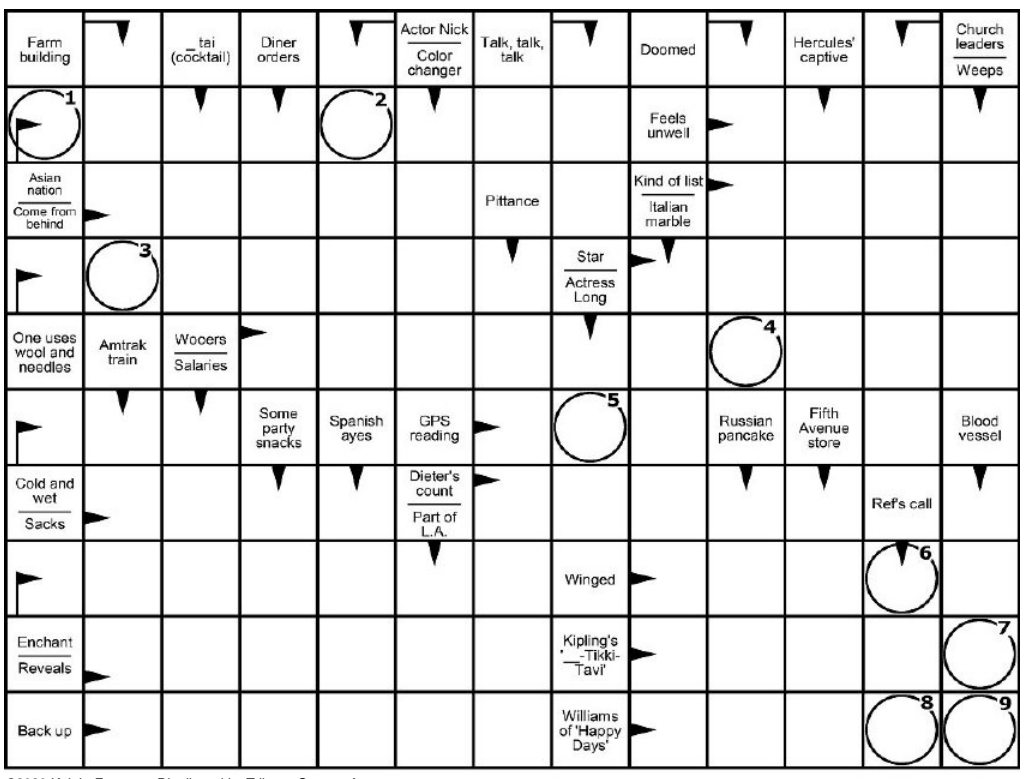
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ◯◯◯ ◯◯ ◯◯◯

Jumbles: FISHY BLURB BLOTCH TIPTOE
Answer: Drilling through the hard tile would be done — BIT BY BIT

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.



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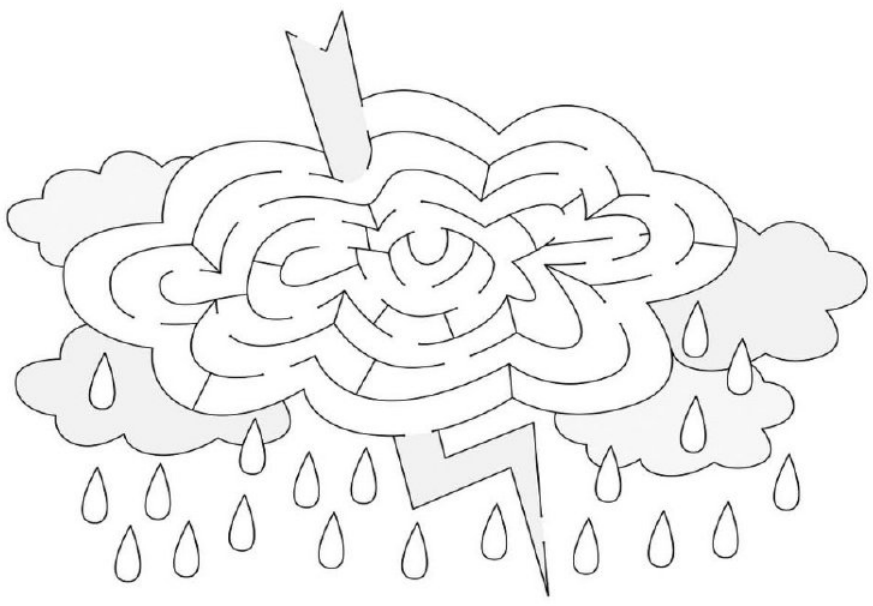
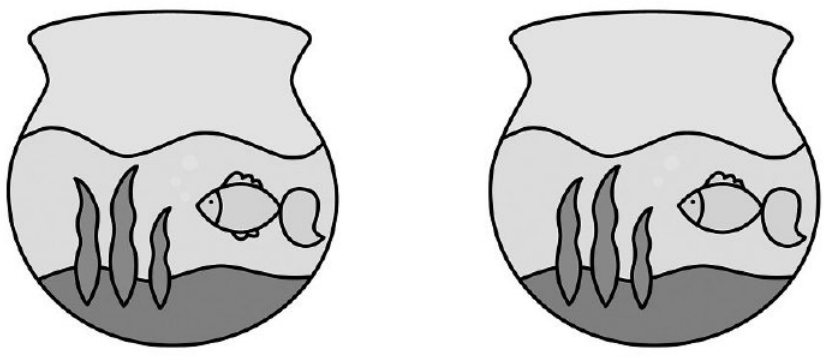
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



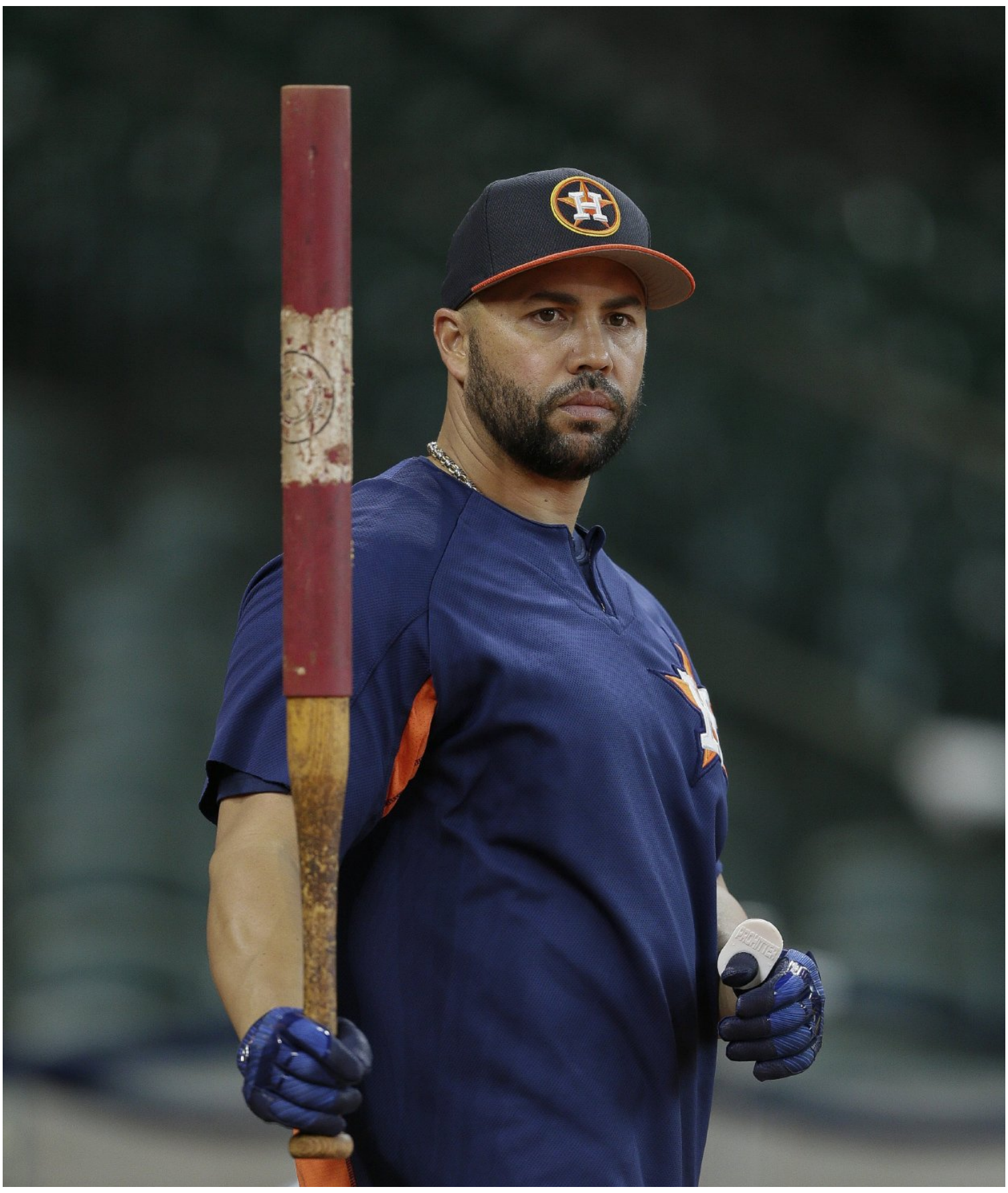
FIND 3 DIFFERENCES



Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO SPORTS

Chicago's best sports section, as judged by the Associated Press Sports Editors



The Hall of Fame case for Carlos Beltran is tricky. The voters have to decide if they should put him in the same category as those who used PEDs after he was involved in the Astros' 2017 sign-stealing saga. **BOB LEVEY/GETTY**

The swing vote

Another Baseball Hall of Fame ballot means another debate about cheaters' justice

Paul Sullivan
In the Wake of the News

2023 BASEBALL HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCEMENT
Time: 5 p.m. Tuesday
TV: MLB Network, 3-7 p.m.

Last month in San Diego, the Contemporary Era committee of the Baseball Hall of Fame met to consider candidates overlooked by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

The 16-member committee selected only one player, Fred McGriff. Candidates with fewer than four votes — including Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Rafael Palmeiro — did not have their totals revealed.

It seemed as if the committee made a statement. McGriff's numbers weren't nearly as impressive as Bonds' or Palmeiro's, but McGriff never was accused of using performance-enhancing drugs.

"Well, when you see the votes that were (received) ..." Ryne Sandberg said, stating the obvious without mentioning names.

Sandberg, a committee member and Hall of Fame second baseman with the Cubs, said McGriff played the game the way it was meant to be

Turn to Sullivan, Page 3

A fan holds a sign during a spring training game between the Astros and Nationals on Feb. 23, 2020, in West Palm Beach, Fla. **JOHN BAZEMORE/AP**

WHITE SOX

Getting out there the goal for Eloy

Healthy Jiménez wants to do more than DH. So how will that work?

By LaMond Pope
Chicago Tribune

Eloy Jiménez spent more than two months on the injured list last season after tearing his right hamstring while running to first base in late April. He appeared in 84 games, making 50 starts at designated hitter and 30 in left field.

Jiménez is determined to stay healthy for the White Sox in 2023 — and he wants to play in the outfield as much as possible.

"Last year I was in that situation that I needed to DH more than play outfield, but this year I'm really preparing myself to play more games in the outfield than DH," Jiménez said during a video conference Monday.

How that works out remains to be seen.

The Sox have a new left fielder after signing Andrew Benintendi to a five-year, $75 million deal. It's the largest contract in franchise history in overall value.

"(Benintendi) comes here to play left field," Sox manager Pedro Grifol said during the 2021 Gold Glove winner's introductory news conference on Jan. 4. "He's done it his whole career and he's obviously very good at it."

Luis Robert is the center fielder and prospect Oscar Colás figures to be an option in right. That could mean many nights at DH for Jiménez.

"I've spoken to Eloy, I've told him to continue to work in the outfield, to work some in right field as well," Grifol said on Jan. 4. "And in true professional manner, Eloy is like, whatever is best for this ballclub and whatever helps us win."

Jiménez said it was good to talk with Grifol.

"(Grifol) said it would be more in right field than left field because Benintendi is here now," Jiménez said. "But we didn't talk about DH a lot."

In the past, Jiménez has made clear his preference to play in the outfield.

While it might not have led to a complete embrace of the spot, Jiménez did make a major contribution as a DH last season. He slashed .274/.343/.500 with 11 homers and 35 RBIs in the role.

"Last year, when I was DH'ing more than (playing) the outfield, it was because I got surgery," Jiménez said. "And I understand that. But this year I've been working really hard to play the outfield more than DH. So I don't really think that I'm going to accept (embracing the DH role) because I'm working hard to get better and I want to play in the outfield."

Jiménez never has played right field in a major-league game. He started 103 games in right in the minors compared with 240 in left.

"I've been practicing more in

Turn to Sox, Page 3

BULLS 111, HAWKS 100

DeRozan's 1,000th game testament to his durability

By Julia Poe
Chicago Tribune

DeMar DeRozan isn't the type of player to track accolades. So it came as a surprise to the Bulls star that Monday night's 111-100 victory against the Atlanta Hawks marked yet another milestone: his 1,000th NBA game.

The historic night was business as usual for DeRozan, who led the Bulls offense with 26 points and six assists in their third straight win.

DeRozan is the 143rd player in league history to play 1,000 or more regular-season games. That achievement has become less common as the league adapts to the concept of load management. Only 17 of those players, including DeRozan, are active.

It's a rarity to remain relevant in the NBA long enough to tally 1,000 games. This latest milestone brought DeRozan a humbling reminder of his longevity — and durability.

"Some players don't get the chance to even come close to that," DeRozan said. "To have that opportunity to get there — knock on wood — it's a hell of a milestone. That's a lot of games."

Over the course of those 1,000 games, DeRozan has created a varied reputation: king of the fourth quarter, master of the midrange, record-setting buzzer-beater. Off the court, he commands a quiet undercurrent of respect from teammates

Turn to Bulls, Page 2

Northwestern guard Boo Buie drives against Wisconsin during the second half Monday in Evanston. **NAM Y. HUH/AP**

COMMENTARY NORTHWESTERN 66, WISCONSIN 63

Wildcats are holding their own in Big Ten

By Paul Sullivan
Chicago Tribune

Northwestern returned to the court Monday with a 66-63 win over Wisconsin at Welsh-Ryan Arena after the postponement of two games last week due to COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

Boo Buie's 20 points led the Wildcats, who improved to 4-3 in the Big Ten and 13-5 overall.

A pair of free throws by Matt Nicholson gave the Wildcats a 64-62 lead with 2 minutes, 18 seconds left, and the Badgers collapsed down the stretch. Northwestern converted 16 of 18 free throws while the Badgers hit 9 of 16.

NU coach Chris Collins said the game wasn't "the prettiest at times ... but we gutted it out."

The hiatus wasn't something the Wildcats welcomed, of course, but the pause in the schedule could inadvertently aid their quest to make the NCAA Tournament.

Northwestern went into the break with back-to-back losses, cooling off after a surprising 12-3 start that included wins over Michigan State, Illinois and Indiana. After having a chance to regroup, they'll now play five times in 11 days, an NBA-type

Turn to NU, Page 4

Team	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BULLS	@IND 6 p.m. | NBCSCH		@CHA 6:30 p.m. | TNT		@ORL 6 p.m. | NBCSCH
BLACKHAWKS	@VAN 9 p.m. | NBCSCH		@CAL 8 p.m. | NBCSCH		@EDM 9 p.m. | NBCSCH

TOP OF THE SECOND

BLACKHAWKS 4 TAKEAWAYS

Johnson injures ankle, Mitchell scores in loss

By Phil Thompson
Chicago Tribune

Blackhawks defenseman Ian Mitchell, center, celebrates his third-period goal with Andreas Athanasiou, Patrick Kane and Caleb Jones on Sunday at the United Center. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

The Blackhawks' impressive run came to a halt Sunday with a 2-1 loss to the Los Angeles Kings at the United Center.

The defeat snapped a three-game winning streak and a run of six wins in seven games. The Kings' Jaret Anderson-Dolan scored twice with Kevin Fiala assisting on both goals.

Early on it seemed like the Hawks barely touched the puck. They didn't record a shot on goal until 15 ½ minutes into the game.

The Kings had a 76% Corsi-for percentage at even strength and a 6-2 advantage in high-danger chances in the first period, according to naturalstattrick.com.

The Hawks were outshot 27-14 and were a step behind most of the night, with a bit of a surge in the third period. Sunday's game was the tail of a road-home back-to-back, but players refused to use it as an excuse.

"We definitely have to be better at showing up for the first half of that game," Connor Murphy said. "Sometimes we get away from our game and we get caught defending."

Coach Luke Richardson cited a "lack of energy" but agreed the Kings dealt with similar circumstances playing the second of back-to-back road games.

"We just couldn't find our game," Richardson said. "They had the puck a lot of the first two periods, which is frustrating. We were just a little bit slow in reacting and then a little tired-looking in our defensive play, so that just made us play defense longer.

"But to (the Hawks players') credit, they tried to push in the third."

Ian Mitchell, drawing into the lineup in place of Isaak Phillips, scored with 3 minutes, 16 seconds left. It was his first goal since May 3, 2021.

"It's not easy coming in and out," Richardson said. "We talked to him the other day. We thought Isaak being a bigger presence against a heavier team in St. Louis, and the way they're probably in a desperate situation and they crash the net ... I thought it was a good decision" to give Phillips the nod over Mitchell.

"Tonight, it took a little while for Ian to settle in, but again, in and out is tough, and it was nice to see him get rewarded at the end of the game. Hopefully that can build his confidence."

Here are four takeaways from the loss.

1. Tyler Johnson reinjured his ankle. Johnson was tripped in the first period at the start of a sequence in which the Kings scored the opening goal.

Johnson played two more shifts but exited with 3 minutes left in the first. He wore a walking boot on his left leg after the game.

Richardson said doctors would check out Johnson on Monday, and it looks unlikely he'll join the team on its three-game trip through Western Canada.

"I don't think they think it's as bad as it was before, but obviously reaggravated," Richardson said. "It's frustrating for him and tough for the team.

"I think last night, even at the end of the game (against the Blues), he did something and today (it made it) just a little bit worse. Before it gets too (much) worse, we thought that was it for today."

2. Did a bit of whistle watching by the Hawks cost them that first Kings goal? Blake Lizotte appeared to trip Johnson in the offensive zone, but there was no call.

Some Hawks went gloves up in protest for a second or two while the Kings made a break for the net. Fiala blew by Mitchell and put a shot on net, and Anderson-Dolan cleaned up the rebound.

When asked if the Hawks took a beat before reacting to the breakout, Richardson acknowledged, "I think so."

"We had the same penalty called against us last night with (Jake) McCabe. I think that's why the guys were thinking that's a penalty," he said. "But you have to keep playing. You have to play to the whistle."

The Hawks clearly didn't.

"It kind of happened quick, and I know everybody was yelling at the bench," Richardson said. "I was looking around, so I missed it quick. But on the replay, I think Mitchell saw the guy there, but they're a quick team and ... maybe the confusion on the ice, misreacting by a second.

"But that's all it takes."

3. Ian Mitchell got a much-needed confidence boost. Mitchell has been swapping starts with Phillips in recent games, and it's tough sharing the load with another young defenseman who's also looking to get established as an NHL regular.

Mitchell played 39 games two seasons ago but just eight last season and 13 this year.

"Every player's path is different and for defensemen sometimes takes a bit of a longer time," he said, "so I've just tried to continue to improve my game and that's pretty much all I can do."

He said Richardson told him to keep doing what comes natural offensively.

"That's a big strength of my game is moving the puck and the offensive blue line making plays," Mitchell said, "and then defensively winning my battles and moving pucks effectively on the breakouts — that's where I can really be effective. So those are things that I have to excel at to make it for sure."

Said Murphy: "Mitchy has that great skating and puck possession — deceptiveness in his game. You saw on that goal (he scored in the third period). He's able to not just bury his head and shoot it into a shin pad; he knows how to find placement of pucks and know when to shoot it or when to find open players."

4. The shots weren't coming for the Hawks, but the Kings had a lot to do with that. The Hawks were able to get away with going 10 minutes before their first shot on goal against the Blues because Jason Dickinson hit paydirt on their first attempt.

But they outdid themselves against the Kings, not getting a shot on goal until 15 ½ minutes into the game. They had just two more attempts that period.

They put up more of a fight in the second (seven shots) but were outshot 21-10 through the first two periods and 27-19 for the game.

During their run of six wins in seven games, the Hawks did a bang-up job of beating the neutral zone press. Not so against the Kings.

"They play a pretty unique system with that 1-3-1, where it makes it tough to get through the neutral zone," Mitchell said. "So I think maybe for the first couple periods that gave us some fits, but in the third we cracked it a bit, and that's when we got some sustained pressure."

Richardson agreed with Mitchell's assessment.

"We tried to adjust something we do in the neutral zone to have more speed," he said, noting that Philipp Kurashev had a breakthrough rush in the first period but missed the net.

"They were kind of mugging us, creating a little interference, but legal moving interference, and we just had no energy to fight through it and create those breaks."

Bulls

from Page 1

and opponents alike.

And he invests heavily in the young talent on the roster — driving to Champaign for Ayo Dosunmu's jersey retirement at Illinois, inviting Patrick Williams to train with him in Los Angeles in the summer, affectionately dubbing rookie Dalen Terry "his son" as he led him around Paris.

Bulls guard Alex Caruso credits DeRozan's longevity to his magnanimity as much as his midrange jumper.

"To stick around for that long speaks volumes to the professionalism and to the kind of person that he is, the teammate he is," Caruso said. "A lot of those things get overlooked. Guys get kicked out of the league for a lot less than basketball skill. Basketball skill is the bare minimum requirement."

DeRozan's outlook on durability was forged on his first day at USC. He hurt himself in practice — nothing too serious but enough to make him question whether he should finish the session.

Trojans coach Tim Floyd presented the freshman with a quandary: If DeRozan didn't practice, his playing time wasn't guaranteed.

DeRozan got the message. He stayed in practice and went on to start every game in his lone season at USC.

Nearly 15 years later, DeRozan's dedication to remaining on the court has only deepened. He puts himself through annual "hell" workouts in the summer that make even the fittest teammates balk. He has rested for only 11.9 minutes per game this season. He has played in more than 90% of the possible games in his career.

Even when he incurs an injury — such as the strained quadriceps that forced him to sit out three games before the Paris trip — DeRozan has to be persuaded to give his body a break. Caruso joked that it was a strange sight to come off the court and see DeRozan on the bench, ready to espouse advice he rarely has time for in a typical game.

"We don't get to hear him on the sidelines much because he's always trying to catch his breath and then getting ready to go right back in," Caruso said.

DeRozan is quick to laugh off questions about his age: "I'm 33, I'm not dead." But in his 14th NBA season, he knows he's closer to the end of his career than the start and is taking more of a pause to soak in his accomplishments.

"I have never, ever taken this for granted," DeRozan said. "That's the one thing I stress to the younger guys now. I look back on my career and the amount of players I played with that just kind of suddenly disappeared in the wind.

"As much as I love this game, when you look at it from that perspective, the game can be taken away from you at any minute."

Bulls forward DeMar DeRozan draws contact from Hawks forward Jalen Johnson in the first half Monday at the United Center. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

The Astros' Trey Mancini waves to the crowd during a second-inning at-bat against the Orioles on Sept. 22 in Baltimore. **TOMMY GILLIGAN/AP**

CUBS

The 'wherever' guy

Mancini embraces role; his versatility gives Ross options with the lineup

By Meghan Montemurro
Chicago Tribune

Trey Mancini already is embracing a versatile role with the Chicago Cubs.

Mancini's experience at first base, both corner outfield spots and designated hitter gives manager David Ross options for how to use the 30-year-old.

Mancini is the eighth free agent the Cubs signed to a major-league deal since Dec. 14.

"I have never played with any of the other guys that were signed by the Cubs this offseason, but I played against them and have such a high respect for all of them," Mancini said Monday during his introductory video conference. "That's a huge step and a huge message that maybe this won't be a long process, and I think we can get things turned around really quickly."

The Cubs felt like the right fit for Mancini throughout the free-agent process. He attributed it to his Midwestern ties, having played three seasons at Notre Dame before the Baltimore Orioles picked him in the eighth round of the 2013 draft.

Mancini's first experience at Wrigley Field came in 2004, when he went to a few games that summer with one of his best friends. He wore a goatee giveaway in honor of then-Cubs pitcher Matt Clement to one game.

The Cubs' addition of first baseman Eric Hosmer didn't diminish Mancini's and the team's interest in each other. Mancini knows where he plays — or if he is even in the lineup — will depend on the opposing starting pitcher, which Ross conveyed to him during a phone conversation. The left-handed-hitting Hosmer and right-handed-hitting Mancini provide platoon options at first base and DH.

Mancini, who signed a two-year, $14 million deal with an opt-out after 2023 if he reaches 350 plate appearances, also can fill in for Ian Happ or Seiya Suzuki if Ross wants to give either outfielder a day off or get them off their feet as the DH. Mancini is the type of player an improved Cubs roster needs: a consistent hitter with an above-league-average OPS+ who can play multiple positions while providing a strong clubhouse presence.

"I told him: 'I don't care where I play at all, I just like playing. Wherever you want me, I'm there,'" Mancini recalled of his talk with Ross.

Ross will have opportunities to see how Mancini matches up best within the lineup during Cactus League games.

It appeared Mancini was going to miss a chunk of spring training because he planned to play in the World Baseball Classic for Team Italy. However, after discussing it with president of baseball operations Jed Hoyer and the Cubs front office, Mancini will not play in the WBC.

He decided to spend the entire camp with his new team to prepare for the season. The travel would have added to the hectic schedule. Italy is slated for pool play March 8-13 in Taiwan, and if it advances to the quarterfinals, it would play March 15 or 16 in Tokyo.

"We thought it might behoove me to be there the whole time with the team, especially since I'm going to be a more veteran presence in the clubhouse," Mancini said. "I knew going into free agency, a lot of times when you're around a new team and wanting to get to know the guys, it's important to be there all the spring.

"So that's on me for not holding off (on committing to play in the WBC) until I knew what situation I was going into."

Mancini is coming off a World Series title with the Houston Astros after the Orioles traded him Aug. 1. He played well initially for his new team, hitting six home runs in his first 18 games, but struggled in September, especially down the stretch when he hit .132/.231/.279 over his final 21 regular-season games.

His slump continued into the postseason in a platoon role. He was 0-for-18 until he singled in the Astros' World Series-clinching Game 6 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

That was Mancini's first start of the World Series. He was called on to replace Yuli Gurriel, who suffered a postseason-ending injury the previous game.

"You have to stick through those tough times and even when you're not feeling great, you're playing for something much bigger than yourself," Mancini said. "That's something I knew even before that, but especially whenever you're going through it, it's tough.

"But you have to stay the course because your number is going to be called when you least expected, and that's what happened. ... You've got to be ready every time."

Last year marked the first time Mancini felt fully recovered since beating Stage 3 colon cancer that sidelined him in 2020. His leg strength took the longest to return, and the offseason after the 2021 season helped him get back to normal.

"It definitely took a toll on my strength and my legs, and as the season goes on, it can be reflective of that," Mancini said. "Your legs are extremely important to hitting and everything you do, so having my legs back under me is pretty important."

Mancini has reached out to White Sox reliever Liam Hendriks as he undergoes treatment for non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

"I wanted him to know I have some advice, at least on what makes you feel better during chemo and how to get through it a little bit better," Mancini said.

Mancini considers this a second chance after defeating a high-risk, aggressive cancer that initially muddied his outlook.

"I haven't changed a lot as a player — it's all the same intensity," Mancini said. "I still really want to do well and contribute and be a huge impact on the team.

"But it does make you realize what a real problem is and what a baseball problem is and you can get through any of them. It's given me a lot of perspective."

Sox

from Page 1

right field this year," Jiménez said of his offseason work. "I feel better. I was really working on every aspect of the outfield, moving backward, moving from side to side. This year I feel really good.

"Right field is a lot different because every ball the right-handed hitter hits most of the time has some backspin. It's way better being there."

The Sox might have to sort out where Jiménez plays this spring, but there's no questioning his importance to the offense. Even in limited action in 2022, he finished second on the team in homers (16) and fifth in RBIs (54). He slashed .323/.391/.558 in 65 games after the All-Star break.

"I was feeling way better last year because I was more disciplined and that really helped me to do a better job," Jiménez said.

After missing extended periods the last two seasons because of injuries, Jiménez recognizes the top priority.

"In my mind, I just say I need to be healthy," he said, "because I know If I'm healthy, I can help in my way."

The White Sox's Eloy Jiménez is congratulated in the dugout after scoring against the Royals on Aug. 2 at Guaranteed Rate Field. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Sullivan

from Page 1

played.

"He followed the rules with integrity and played the game the right way," Sandberg said. "Integrity is a big part of it. It's on the seal of the National Hall of Fame — integrity, sportsmanship and playing the game the right way."

Now the ball is back in the BBWAA's court.

The Hall of Fame on Tuesday will reveal the results of voting by BBWAA members, whose ballots were due at the end of 2022. Players must receive 75% of the votes to be elected, and it's possible no one on the writers' ballot will make it this year, potentially leaving McGriff as the only honoree at the July 23 ceremony in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Alex Rodriguez and Manny Ramirez, sluggers who normally would be first-ballot Hall of Famers, have not come close to getting the call thanks to their suspensions for PED use. This year they're joined on the ballot by another alleged cheater in Carlos Beltran, whose methods were much different from the steroids crowd.

Entering the weekend, Todd Helton and Scott Rolen exceeded 75% on known ballots, according to Ryan Thibodaux's Hall of Fame tracker. But those numbers often go down once all the ballots are counted, so it could be "wait until next year" for one or both. This year's ballot is underwhelming, with first-year candidates Jered Weaver, Andre Ethier, Bronson Arroyo and J.J. Hardy among the players who have received no votes thus far. I enjoyed seeing former Cubs pitcher John Lackey's name on the ballot but couldn't put a check mark by it, even though his Hall of Fame speech probably would become an instant classic.

I wound up voting for four players: Helton, Beltran, Mark Buehrle and Billy Wagner.

Helton has steadily risen in the voting in his five years on the ballot and should get in eventually if not this year. Buehrle is a personal favorite who doesn't have a realistic shot, though pitchers who win 200-plus games and make 30 or more starts every season while throwing 200-plus innings are a dying breed. He'll be more appreciated years from now, but by then he'll be off the ballot.

This is my first year voting for Wagner, a borderline call. But closers are not represented fairly in the Hall despite being one of the most important parts of the majority of championship teams, so I joined the pro-Wagner crowd.

Beltran was a difficult choice for obvious reasons. He had Hall of Fame credentials as the best all-around center fielder of his era. But he also was one of the prominent Astros players in the 2017 sign-stealing scandal that rocked the game, which some feel should disqualify him from the Hall.

I've rejected PED-tainted candidates but had a hard time comparing Beltran's cheating to players who altered their bodies through modern medicine.

What the Astros did was clearly wrong, but back in the day, sign stealing was considered an art form that many teams used to get an edge. The White Sox once had a coach named Joe Nossek who was considered one of the best ever at it.

"I got hooked on it," Nossek once said. "A little success makes you want more."

Many teams had someone like Nossek, whether they admitted it or not. How many managers in the Hall of Fame had a coach or player trying to steal signs?

But it wasn't until Steve Jobs changed the world that it went to another level. When modern technology became prevalent in dugouts and clubhouses, using video instead of one's brain to decode signs, that "edge" no longer was winked at. In 2017, the Red Sox were accused of using an Apple Watch to relay stolen signs in a series with the Yankees.

Commissioner Rob Manfred ruled the Red Sox violated MLB rules by "sending electronic communications from their video replay room to an athletic trainer in the dugout."

Fines were issued and warnings were sent out to all teams. The Astros ignored those warnings, of course, and the rest is history. Their World Series title will forever be challenged, and Beltran and the rest of the team have been tainted by the episode.

But should that incident deny him entrance to the Hall? Integrity and sportsmanship were no doubt lacking. But right or wrong, Manfred did not penalize any of the Astros players. Should the voters be the ones penalizing Beltran?

There are valid arguments to be made against him, but Beltran got my check mark.

Feel free to disagree. Being told you're wrong is an occupational hazard for a BBWAA voter.

White Sox starting pitcher Mark Buehrle posted a 3.81 ERA, was a five-time All-Star and four-time Gold Glove winner over 16 MLB seasons. **JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

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NORTHWESTERN

NU

from Page 1

stretch that could determine whether they're true tournament contenders or merely NIT material.

Because of the postponements that led to Monday's game, the Wildcats' game at Nebraska was switched from Tuesday to Wednesday. That will be followed by a Saturday home game against Minnesota, the only team in the conference that's under .500 overall. Next comes the rescheduled game at Iowa on Jan. 31, and the Wildcats finish the stretch by hosting Michigan on Feb. 2.

Collins said the busy stretch could work out in the end.

"You always have to look at things optimistically," he said, adding that he asked the players "if they'd rather have practice on those days. It was a resounding no."

Collins thanked the schools — Wisconsin. Iowa and Nebraska — for being amenable to rescheduling, saying no one wants to play in empty gyms, as they did during the pandemic.

"It wasn't an easy puzzle to put together," he said. "Everyone is on the same page. They want the players to play."

Wisconsin coach Greg Gard wasn't crazy about the rescheduling but said there was no good option: "This is the one that stunk the least."

There's a long way to go until March Madness, and many teams have wilted once the rigors of Big Ten play begin taking a toll in February. Northwestern can't afford to take a game off and hope to compete.

But ESPN bracketologist Joe Lunardi had the Wildcats as one of the last four teams in the field in his latest projection through Thursday's games.

Being on the bubble in late January is about as much as you can ask for at Northwestern. The only NCAA Tournament appearance in school history came in 2017 under Collins. But instead of becoming a trend, that dream season now looks like an outlier.

This senior-led team has a chance to change that perception, and it looks like the only dominant team in the conference is Purdue. Parity has been the Big Ten buzzword this season.

Outside of the Boilermakers, who returned to the No. 1 spot in the AP poll Monday, no other team was even ranked. It's hard to believe College of Charleston and Florida Atlantic are better than every other Big Ten team, but it has been that kind of season in college basketball with no one taking control.

Rutgers and Michigan are tied for second in the conference at 5-3 with nine other teams within two games of second. If everyone keeps beating each other at the current pace, with a slew of .500-ish teams in Big Ten play, it could create a dilemma

Wisconsin forward Steven Crowl, left, looks to pass as Northwestern center Matthew Nicholson defends Monday. **NAM Y. HUH/AP**

for the selection committee that typically rewards Big Ten teams based on the conference's overall strength.

Despite the parity, the Big Ten was the third-strongest conference behind the Big 12 and SEC in the latest RPI. The Wildcats were No. 51 through Sunday in the NCAA's NET rankings, 10th among Big Ten teams.

So how many will get selected?

Nine Big Ten teams were invited to the NCAA Tournament last season, and Lunardi currently has 10 going in this March.

Of the nine teams invited last year, only Michigan and Purdue advanced past the opening weekend, and both lost in the Sweet 16. Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim used that fact to rip the Big Ten during his team's media day in October.

"At the end of the day, you play for the tournament," Boeheim said. "You can say what you want about the Big Ten. They sucked in the tournament. To me, that's what they did. All of their wins were in their league. If you can't play in the tournament, then you're not good."

It could be Boeheim being Boeheim, but he's probably not the only coach to think that way. The Big Ten hasn't had a national champion since Michigan State in 2000, and Purdue, which never has won, appears to be the only team with a realistic shot this year.

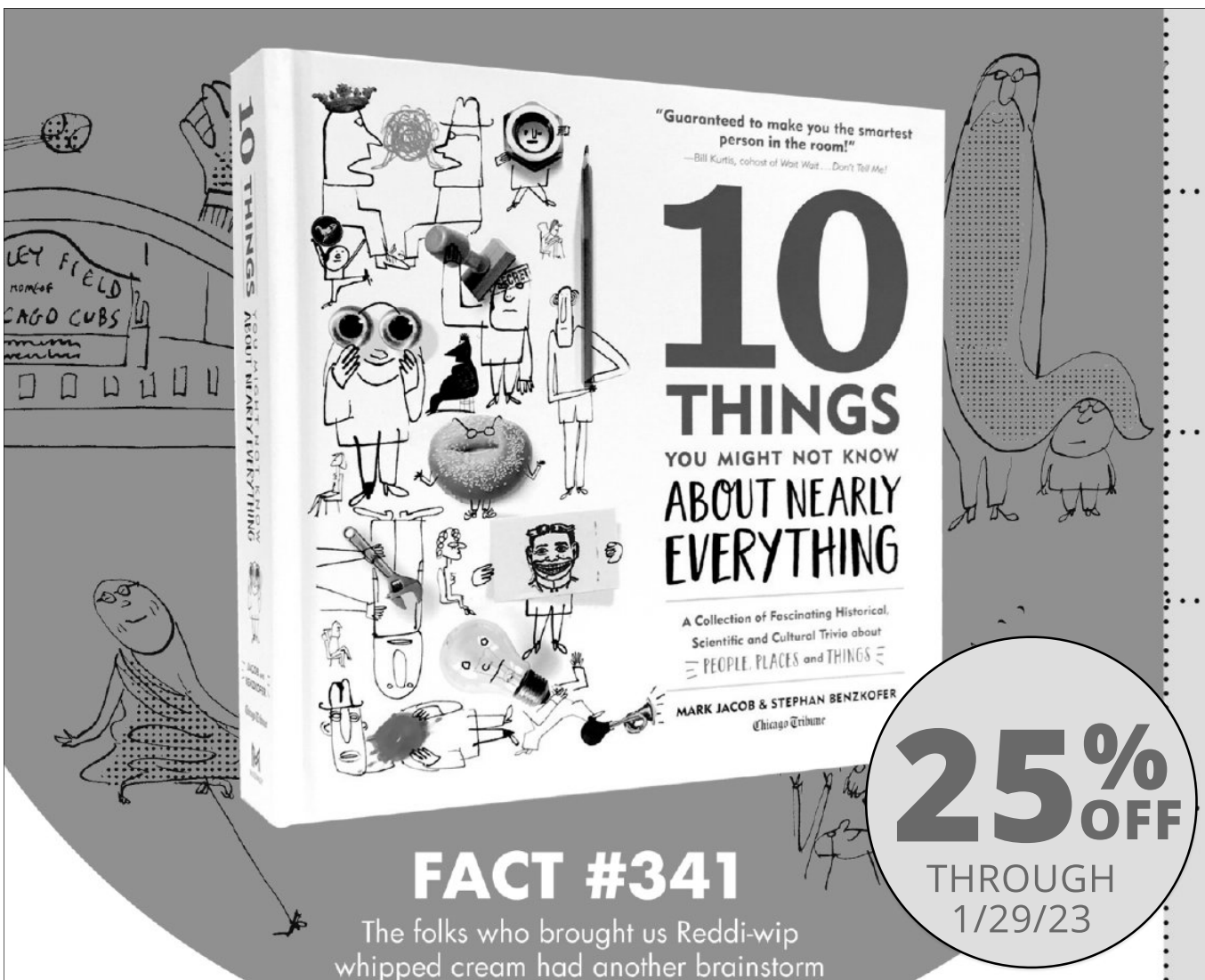
Northwestern's goal right now is to get in. For a team that finished 10th in the conference last year at 7-13, competing for a top-half finish in the Big Ten would be a big step forward.

Yet there were plenty of empty seats at Monday's game — and much of the crowd that showed up were Badgers fans — so it remains to be seen whether the students and alumni are all in on the Wildcats' chances of making some noise in March.

The Big Ten Tournament moves back to United Center this year, and remember NU markets itself as "Chicago's Big Ten team." With the Bulls underachieving and the Blackhawks rebuilding, Chicago could use a winning team to call its own.

Can the Wildcats hang in?

We should have a pretty good idea when this 11-day stretch ends.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FACT #341
The folks who brought us Reddi-wip whipped cream had another brainstorm in the 1960s: Reddi-Bacon.

FACT #84
A cardigan worn by a man is sometimes called a mandigan.

FACT #147
When someone uses chitchat, noises, or mannerisms to distract or mislead an opponent during poker or another game, it's called "coffeehousing."

FACT #178
Genuphobia is the fear of knees.

FACT #238
Actress Marilyn Monroe colored her hair using a shade of blond called dirty pillow slip.

FACT #279
Before Sir Thomas More was beheaded in 1535, he moved his lengthy beard aside, saying it "had never committed any treason."

10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything contains a plethora of tidbits and trivia that will appeal to everyone, from history buffs to sports fans to foodies. From lighthearted topics such as misspellings and extreme eating, to serious subjects such as WWII and prison, this book leaves readers brighter and wittier than ever before.

FACT #302
Tweety Bird, the animated Looney Tunes character, was originally pink. But censors complained that Tweety looked naked, so animators gave the bird yellow feathers.

FACT #408
Joe Charbonneau, a Belvedere, Ill., native, who played outfield for the Cleveland Indians in the early '80s , used to open beer bottles with his eye socket and drink beer through a straw in his nose.

FACT #459
When actor Clint Eastwood ran for mayor of Carmel, California, in 1986, a major issue was ice cream. Town leaders had banned the sale of ice cream cones, incensing Eastwood and his supporters. They won and overturned the ordinance.

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SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	35	13	.729	—
Philadelphia	30	16	.652	4
Brooklyn	29	17	.630	5
New York	25	23	.521	10
Toronto	21	27	.438	14

SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	26	22	.542	—
Atlanta	24	24	.500	2
Washington	20	26	.435	5
Orlando	18	29	.383	7 ½
Charlotte	13	34	.277	12 ½

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	30	17	.638	—
Cleveland	29	19	.604	1 ½
Indiana	23	25	.479	7 ½
Chicago	22	24	.478	7 ½
Detroit	12	37	.245	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	31	15	.674	—
New Orleans	26	21	.553	5 ½
Dallas	25	23	.521	7
San Antonio	14	32	.304	17
Houston	11	36	.234	20 ½

NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Denver	33	14	.702	—
Utah	24	25	.490	10
Minnesota	24	25	.490	10
Oklahoma City	23	24	.489	10
Portland	21	25	.457	11 ½

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Sacramento	26	19	.578	—
L.A. Clippers	25	24	.510	3
Phoenix	24	24	.500	3 ½
Golden State	23	24	.489	4
L.A. Lakers	22	25	.468	5

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Orlando 113, Boston 98
Milwaukee 150, Detroit 130
Chicago 111, Atlanta 100
Houston 119, Minnesota 114
Charlotte at Utah, late
San Antonio at Portland, late
Memphis at Sacramento, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Indiana, 6p.m.
Boston at Miami, 6:30p.m.
Cleveland at New York, 6:30p.m.
Denver at New Orleans, 7p.m.
Washington at Dallas, 7:30p.m.
Charlotte at Phoenix, 8p.m.
L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers, 9p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Indiana at Orlando, 6p.m.
Brooklyn at Philadelphia, 6:30p.m.
Atlanta at Oklahoma City, 7p.m.
Denver at Milwaukee, 7p.m.
Minnesota at New Orleans, 7p.m.
Washington at Houston, 7p.m.
Memphis at Golden State, 9p.m.
Toronto at Sacramento, 9p.m.
Utah at Portland, 9p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 9:30p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Charlotte, 6:30p.m.
Detroit at Brooklyn, 6:30p.m.
New York at Boston, 6:30p.m.
Cleveland at Houston, 7p.m.
Dallas at Phoenix, 9p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 9:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
L.A. Clippers 112, Dallas 98
Miami 100, New Orleans 96
Toronto 125, New York 116
Oklahoma City 101, Denver 99
Phoenix 112, Memphis 110
Brooklyn 120, Golden State 116
L.A. Lakers 121, Portland 112

NFL PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

SUNDAY'S GAMES
NFC: San Francisco (15-4) at Philadelphia (15-3), 2:05p.m. (FOX)
AFC: Cincinnati (14-4) at Kansas City (15-3), 5:30 p.m. (CBS)

SUPER BOWL LVII

Sunday, Feb. 12,
State Farm Stadium, Glendale, Ariz.
Conference champions, 5:30p.m. (FOX)

LATE SUNDAY: SAN FRANCISCO 19, DALLAS 12

Dallas	**0**	**6**	**3**	**3**	**—**	**12**
San Francisco	**3**	**6**	**0**	**10**	**—**	**19**

First Quarter
SF: FG Gould 26, 2:12.
Second Quarter
Dal: Schultz 4pass from Prescott (kick blocked), 9:25.
SF: FG Gould 47, 3:43.
SF: FG Gould 50, :00.
Third Quarter
Dal: FG Maher 25, 9:08.
Fourth Quarter
SF: McCaffrey 2run (Gould kick), 14:58.
Dal: FG Maher 43, 11:03.
SF: FG Gould 28, 3:04.

TEAM STATS	DAL	SF
First downs	15	21
Thid down efficiency	5-15	7-14
Fourth down efficiency	2-2	0-0
Total net yards	282	312
Rushes-yards	22-76	32-113
Passing	206	199
Punt returns	0-0	2-17
Kickoff returns	4-120	1-53
Interceptions ret.	0-0	2-22
Comp-att-int	23-37-2	19-29-0
Sacked-yards lost	1-0	2-15
Punts	4-46.75	4-41.0
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-yards	7-50	3-30
Time of possession	27:07	32:53

RUSHING: Dallas, Elliott 10-26, Prescott 4-22, Pollard 6-22, Lamb 2-6. San Francisco, Mitchell 14-51, McCaffrey 10-35, Samuel 4-11, Juszczyk 1-8, Purdy 3-8.
PASSING: Dallas, Prescott 23-37-2-206. San Francisco, Purdy 19-29-0-214.
RECEIVING: Dallas, Lamb 10-117, Schultz 5-27, N.Brown 2-21, Pollard 2-11, Elliott 2-7, Hilton 1-15, Turpin 1-8. San Francisco, McCaffrey 6-22, Kittle 5-95, Samuel 4-45, Aiyuk 2-26, Jennings 2-26.
TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: Dallas, Bland 6-4-0, Wilson 5-3-0, Lawrence 4-2-1, Odighizuwa 2-3-1. San Francisco, Warner 7-2-0, C.Ward 5-1-0, Bosa 2-0-0, Ebukam 1-1-1.
INTERCEPTIONS: San Francisco, Warner 1-16, Lenoir 1-6.

BASEBALL

BBWAA HALL OF FAME BALLOT

2023 Hall Class Baseball Writers' Association of America vote set to be announced Tuesday.

PITCHER	YOB	WAR	W	L	ERA
Billy Wagner	8th	27.7	422-s		2.31
Andy Pettitte	5th	60.2	256	153	3.85
Mark Buehrle	3rd	59.1	214	160	3.81
John Lackey	1st	37.3	188	147	3.92
Jered Weaver	1st	34.6	150	98	3.63
Matt Cain	1st	29.1	104	118	3.68
Bronson Arroyo	1st	23.4	148	137	4.28
R.A. Dickey	1st	23.7	120	118	4.04
Francisco Rodríguez	1st	24.2	437-s		2.86
Huston Street	1st	14.5	324-s		2.95

BATTER	YOB	WAR	HR	RBI	AVG
Scott Rolen	6th	70.1	316	1287	.281
Todd Helton	5th	61.8	369	1406	.316
Andruw Jones	6th	62.7	434	1289	.254
Gary Sheffield	9th	60.5	509	1676	.292
Alex Rodriguez	2nd	117.6	696	2086	.295
Jeff Kent	10th	55.4	377	1518	.290
Manny Ramirez	7th	69.3	555	1831	.312
Omar Vizquel	6th	45.6	80	951	.272
Jimmy Rollins	2nd	47.6	231	936	.264
Bobby Abreu	4th	60.2	288	1363	.291
Torii Hunter	3rd	50.7	353	1391	.277
Carlos Beltrán	1st	70.1	435	1587	.279
Jacoby Ellsbury	1st	31.2	104	512	.284
Jhonny Peralta	1st	30.4	202	873	.267
Jayson Werth	1st	29.2	229	799	.267
J.J. Hardy	1st	28.1	188	688	.256
Mike Napoli	1st	26.3	267	744	.246
Andre Ethier	1st	21.5	162	687	.285

YOB-years on ballot; s-saves
source: baseball-reference.com

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Boston	46	37	5	4	78	177	96
Toronto	48	29	11	8	66	163	127
Tampa Bay	45	29	15	1	59	163	135
Buffalo	46	24	19	3	51	175	157
Florida	49	23	21	5	51	165	169
Detroit	45	19	18	8	46	138	153
Ottawa	46	20	23	3	43	133	152
Montreal	47	20	24	3	43	125	171
METRO.	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Carolina	46	29	9	8	66	151	124
New Jersey	46	30	12	4	64	161	121
N.Y. Rangers	47	26	14	7	59	151	125
Washington	49	25	18	6	56	156	139
Pittsburgh	46	23	15	8	54	148	138
N.Y. Islanders	49	23	21	5	51	143	141
Philadelphia	48	20	21	7	47	133	155
Columbus	46	14	30	2	30	119	180

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Dallas	49	28	13	8	64	169	127
Winnipeg	48	31	16	1	63	160	126
Minnesota	45	25	16	4	54	143	130
Colorado	45	25	17	3	53	141	124
Nashville	46	22	18	6	50	129	136
St. Louis	47	23	21	3	49	149	167
Arizona	47	15	27	5	35	123	170
Chicago	45	14	27	4	32	108	163
PACIFIC	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Vegas	48	29	17	2	60	156	139
Seattle	46	27	14	5	59	166	144
Los Angeles	49	26	17	6	58	159	167
Edmonton	48	27	18	3	57	178	157
Calgary	47	22	16	9	53	150	143
Vancouver	46	18	25	3	39	155	186
San Jose	48	14	25	9	37	145	184
Anaheim	47	13	29	5	31	113	199

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Toronto 5, N.Y. Islanders 2
N.Y. Rangers 6, Florida 2
Buffalo 3, Dallas 2 (OT)
Columbus at Calgary, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Boston at Montreal, 6p.m.
Florida at Pittsburgh, 6p.m.
Los Angeles at Philadelphia, 6p.m.
Minnesota at Tampa Bay, 6p.m.
San Jose at Detroit, 6p.m.
Vegas at New Jersey, 6:30p.m.
Buffalo at St. Louis, 7p.m.
Winnipeg at Nashville, 7p.m.
Anaheim at Arizona, 8p.m.
Washington at Colorado, 8p.m.
Chicago at Vancouver, 9p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
N.Y. Islanders at Ottawa, 6p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Toronto, 6p.m.
Carolina at Dallas, 7:30p.m.
Columbus at Edmonton, 8:30p.m.
Vancouver at Seattle, 9p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Boston at Tampa Bay, 6p.m.
Detroit at Montreal, 6p.m.
Pittsburgh at Washington, 6p.m.
Buffalo at Winnipeg, 7p.m.
New Jersey at Nashville, 7p.m.
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 7p.m.
Anaheim at Colorado, 8p.m.
Chicago at Calgary, 8p.m.
St. Louis at Arizona, 8p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
New Jersey 2, Pittsburgh 1(OT)
Los Angeles 2, Chicago 1
Winnipeg 5, Philadelphia 3
Boston 4, San Jose 0
Arizona 4, Vegas 1

POINT SCORING LEADERS

through Sunday's games

SKATER, TEAM	GP	G	A	PT
Connor McDavid, EDM	48	40	48	88
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	46	28	45	73
Nikita Kucherov, TB	45	18	48	66
David Pastrnak, BOS	46	36	29	65
Jason Robertson, DAL	48	31	33	64
Erik Karlsson, SJ	48	15	47	62
Tage Thompson, BUF	45	32	29	61
Matthew Tkachuk, FLA	45	24	35	59
Jack Hughes, NJ	46	30	28	58
Mikko Rantanen, COL	45	32	26	58
R. Nugent-Hopkins, EDM	48	22	35	57
Kyle Connor, WPG	48	24	33	57

ODDS

NBA			TUESDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**O/U**	**UNDERDOG**
Chicago	1	(237)	at Indiana
at Miami	off	(off)	Boston
at New York	off	(off)	Cleveland
at New Orleans	off	(off)	Denver
at Dallas	7	(225)	Washington
at Phoenix	off	(off)	Charlotte
LA Clippers	4	(233)	at LA Lakers

NHL			TUESDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**UNDERDOG**	**LINE**
Boston	-360	at Montreal	+280
at Tampa Bay	-160	Minnesota	+132
Los Angeles	-152	at Philadelphia	+126
at Detroit	-150	San Jose	+125
at Pittsburgh	off	Florida	off
at New Jersey	-172	Vegas	+142
Winnipeg	-114	at Nashville	-105
at St. Louis	-137	Buffalo	+114
at Arizona	-140	Anaheim	+116
at Colorado	-170	Washington	+140
at Vancouver	-235	Chicago	+190

COLLEGE BASKETBALL		TUESDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**UNDERDOG**
at Rutgers	5½	Penn State
at Mississippi	1½	Missouri
at Arkansas	11½	LSU
Miami	4½	at Florida State
at NC State	7½	Notre Dame
at Ball State	5	Buffalo
at Cent. Michigan	Pk	Bowling Green
at East Carolina	3½	Tulsa
DePaul	3½	at Georgetown
Davidson	3½	at La Salle
at Ohio	10½	Western Michigan
at Akron	13½	Miami (Ohio)
at Illinois	3½	Ohio State
at Toledo	18½	Eastern Michigan
Kent State	13½	at Northern Illinois
at Missouri State	13½	Illinois Chicago
at TCU	7½	Oklahoma
at Southern Illinois	7½	Murray State
at Boise State	11½	Fresno State
at Clemson	11½	Georgia Tech
at Dreake	7½	Indiana State
Kentucky	3½	at Vanderbilt
at Iowa State	5½	Kansas State
at Texas	8½	Oklahoma State
North Carolina	3½	at Syracuse
at San Jose State	2½	Air Force
at UNLV	7½	Wyoming

NFL PLAYOFFS			SUNDAY
FAVORITE	**NOW**	**O/U**	**UNDERDOG**
at Philadelphia	2½	(45½)	San Francisco
Cincinnati	1	(47½)	at Kansas City

SUPER BOWL LVII CHAMPION

Cincinnati	+260	Kansas City	+260
Philadelphia	+260	San Francisco	+300

For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

SOCCER

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Arsenal	19	16	2	1	45	16	50
Man City	20	14	3	3	53	20	45
Newcastle	20	10	9	1	33	11	39
Man United	20	12	3	5	32	25	39
Tottenham	21	11	3	7	40	31	36
Brighton	19	9	4	6	37	27	31
Fulham	21	9	4	8	32	30	31
Brentford	20	7	9	4	32	28	30
Liverpool	19	8	5	6	34	25	29
Chelsea	20	8	5	7	22	21	29
Aston Villa	20	8	4	8	23	27	28
Crystal Palace	20	6	6	8	18	27	24
Notting. Forest	20	5	6	9	16	35	21
Leicester	20	5	3	12	28	35	18
Leeds	19	4	6	9	26	33	18
West Ham	20	5	3	12	17	25	18
Wolverhampton	20	4	5	11	12	30	17
Bournemouth	20	4	5	11	19	42	17
Everton	20	3	6	11	15	28	15
Southampton	20	4	3	13	17	35	15

MONDAY'S RESULT
Tottenham 1, Fulham 0

FRIDAY, FEB. 3
Chelsea vs. Fulham, 2p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

HOW MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

No. 1 Purdue (19-1) did not play. Next: at Michigan, Thursday.
No. 2 Alabama (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. Mississippi, Wednesday.
No. 3 Houston (18-2) did not play. Next: vs. UCF, Wednesday.
No. 4 Tennessee (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia, Wednesday.
No. 5 Kansas State (17-2) did not play. Next: at No. 12 Iowa State Tuesday.
No. 6 Arizona (17-3) did not play. Next: at Washington St., Thursday.
No. 7 Virginia (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Boston College, Saturday.
No. 8 UCLA (17-3) did not play. Next: at Southen Cal, Thursday.
No. 9 Kansas (16-4) lost to No. 21 Baylor 75-69. Next: at Kentucky, Saturday.
No. 10 Texas (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma State, Tuesday.
No. 11 TCU (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Tuesday.
No. 12 Iowa State (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 5 Kansas State, Tuesday.
No. 13 Xavier (16-4) did not play. Next: at No. 19 UConn, Wednesday.
No. 14 Gonzaga (17-4) did not play. Next: at Portland, Saturday.
No. 15 Auburn (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. Texas A&M, Wednesday.
No. 16 Marquette (16-5) did not play. Next: at DePaul, Saturday.
No. 17 Baylor (15-5) beat No. 9 Kansas 75-69. Next: vs. Arkansas,. Saturday.
No. 18 Charleston (21-1) did not play. Next: vs. Hofstra, Saturday.
No. 19 UConn (16-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 13 Xavier, Wednesday.
No. 20 Miami (15-4) did not play. Next: at Florida State, Tuesday.
No. 21 Florida Atlantic (19-1) did not play. Next: vs. Middle Tennessee, Thursday.
No. 22 St. Mary's (Cal.) (18-4) did not play. Next: at BYU, Saturday.
No. 23 Providence (15-5) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Tuesday.
No. 24 Clemson (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Tuesday.
No. 25 New Mexico (18-2) at Nevada. Next: vs. Air Force, Friday.

MONDAY'S SCORES

EAST
Alderson-Broaddus 80, Bluefield 75
Amherst 72, Westfield St. 57
California (Pa.) 66, Seton Hill 56
Colgate 64, Boston U. 51
Gannon 73, Clarion 62
Gwynedd-Mercy 60, Immaculata 54
Howard 90, Coppin St. 76
Indiana (Pa.) 79, Edinboro 61
Mansfield 81, Bloomsburg 66
Morgan St. 77, Norfolk St. 71
Penn 76, Hartford 52
Wesleyan (Conn.) 80, UM-Dartmouth 75
West Chester 70, Shepherd 69
SOUTH
Alcorn St. 76, Bethune-Cookman 68
Chicago St. 74, Coastal Carolina 70
Delaware St. 88, SC State 85, OT
LeMoyne-Owen 74, Kentucky St. 71
Md.-Eastern Shore 59, NC Central 58
Southern U. 84, MVSU 70
Virginia Tech 78, Duke 75
MIDWEST
Lane 82, Central St. (Ohio) 75
Northwestern 66, Wisconsin 63
Oakland 76, Detroit 67
W. Illinois 92, North Dakota 80
SOUTHWEST
Arkansas Tech 87, Harding 75
S. Nazarene 80, Oklahoma Baptist 66
SE Oklahoma 83, East Central 71
SW Oklahoma 74, NW Oklahoma 71

HOW WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

No. 1 South Carolina (20-0) did not play. Next: at Alabama, Sunday.
No. 2 Ohio State (19-1) lost to No. 10 Iowa 83-72. Next: at No. 6 Indiana, Thursday.
No. 3 Stanford (19-2) did not play. Next: vs. Oregon St., Friday.
No. 4 LSU (20-0) beat Alabama 89-51. Next: vs. Tennessee, Monday.
No. 5 UConn (18-2) beat DePaul 94-51. Next: at Tennessee, Thursday.
No. 6 Indiana (18-1) beat No. 13 Michigan 92-83. Next: vs. No. 2 Ohio State, Thursday.
No. 7 Notre Dame (16-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 24 Florida State, Thursday.
No. 8 UCLA (17-3) did not play. Next: at No. 25 Colorado, Friday.
No. 9 Utah (16-2) did not play. Next: vs. Southern Cal, Friday.
No. 10 Iowa (16-4) beat No. 2 Ohio State 83-72. Next: vs. Nebraska, Saturday.
No. 11 Maryland (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 13 Michigan, Thursday.
No. 12 Virginia Tech (16-3) did not play. Next: at No. 16 Duke, Thursday.
No. 13 Michigan (16-4) lost to No. 6 Indiana 92-83. Next: at No. 10 Maryland, Thursday.
No. 14 Oklahoma (16-2) did not play. Next: at Texas, Wednesday.
No. 15 North Carolina (14-5) did not play. Next: at Pittsburgh, Thursday.
No. 16 Duke (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 12 Virginia Tech, Thursday.
No. 17 Gonzaga (19-2) did not play. Next: vs. Loyola Marymount, Thursday.
No. 18 Iowa State (13-4) did not play. Next: at TCU, Wednesday.
No. 19 Arizona (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. Washington, Friday.
No. 20 NC State (15-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 7 Notre Dame, Sunday.
No. 21 Villanova (18-3) did not play. Next: at No. 5 UConn, Sunday.
No. 22 Illinois (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. Purdue, Thursday.
No. 23 Middle Tennessee (16-2) did not play. Next: vs. Florida Atlantic, Thursday.
No. 24 Florida State (18-4) did not play. Next: at No. 7 Notre Dame, Thursday.
No. 25 Colorado (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 9 UCLA, Friday.

THE MEN'S AP TOP 25

RK. SCHOOL	W-L	PTS	LW	CP
1. Purdue (39)	19-1	1,527	3	1
2. Alabama (23)	17-2	1,511	4	2
3. Houston	18-2	1,333	1	3
4. Tennessee	16-3	1,298	9	4
5. Kansas State	17-2	1,254	13	5
6. Arizona	17-3	1,195	11	8
7. Virginia	15-3	1,160	10	6
8. UCLA	17-3	1,155	5	7
9. Kansas	16-3	1,117	2	9
10. Texas	16-3	980	7	10
11. TCU	15-4	875	14	11
12. Iowa State	14-4	817	12	13
13. Xavier	16-4	807	8	12
14. Gonzaga	17-4	784	6	14
15. Auburn	16-3	699	16	16
16. Marquette	16-5	600	20	15
17. Baylor	14-5	497	21	17
18. Coll. Charleston	21-1	445	18	18
19. UConn	16-5	372	15	20
20. Miami	15-4	328	17	19
21. Florida Atlantic	19-1	271	24	24
22. St. Mary's	18-4	254	--	22
23. Providence	15-5	194	22	21
24. Clemson	16-4	169	19	23
25. New Mexico	18-2	156	--	--

Others: Duke 102, Indiana 61, San Diego State 57, Rutgers 31, Kent State 24, North Carolina 12, Michigan State 10, Arkansas 9, Illinois 9, Creighton 9, Missouri 8, Wisconsin 6, North Carolina State 4, Kentucky 3, Boise State 2, VCU 2, Wake Forest 1, Oral Roberts 1, Memphis 1. (CP-coaches poll)

THE WOMEN'S AP TOP 25

RK. SCHOOL	W-L	PTS	LW
1. South Carolina (28)	20-0	700	1
2. Ohio State	19-0	669	2
3. Stanford	19-2	615	4
4. LSU	19-0	603	3
5. UConn	17-2	596	5
6. Indiana	17-1	584	6
7. Notre Dame	16-2	541	7
8. UCLA	17-3	448	9
9. Utah	16-2	430	8
10. Iowa	15-4	425	10
10. Maryland	16-4	425	11
12. Virginia Tech	16-3	403	12
13. Michigan	16-3	352	14
14. Oklahoma	16-2	304	15
15. North Carolina	14-5	298	17
16. Duke	17-2	281	13
17. Gonzaga	19-2	259	16
18. Iowa State	13-4	221	18
19. Arizona	15-4	201	19
20. N.C. State	15-5	171	20
21. Villanova	18-3	145	22
22. Illinois	16-4	103	21
23. Middle Tennessee	16-2	64	-
24. Florida State	18-4	57	-
25. Colorado	15-4	56	24

Others: Tennessee 47, Texas 35, South Florida 31, USC 22, Oregon 10, Arkansas 2, UNLV 1, Alabama 1. (1st-place votes)

TENNIS

111TH AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Monday at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia, hardcourt outdoors
MEN'S SINGLES, FOURTH ROUND
#4 Novak Djokovic d. #22 Alex de Minaur, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2.
#5 Andrey Rublev d. #9Holger Rune, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(9).

RUBLEV	Time: 3:37	RUNE
22	Aces	8
4	Double faults	12
65%	% 1st serve in	56%
73%	Win % 1st serve	68%
47%	Win % 2nd serve	51%
209	Fastest serve (km/h)	211
191	1st srv avg (km/h)	195
144	2nd srv avg (km/h)	171
58	Winners	44
2	Return winners	7
37	Unforced errors	60
2	Return unforced errors	12
5-13	Break points won	5-17
18-28	Net points won	25-34
52-164	Receiving points won	54-162
168	Total points won	158

Tommy Paul d. #24Roberto Bautista Agut, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.
Ben Shelton d. Jeffrey John Wolf, 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-7(4), 7-6(4), 6-2.

SHELTON	Time: 3:47	WOLF
23	Aces	19
1	Double faults	2
68%	% 1st serve in	65%
82%	Win % 1st serve	80%
69%	Win % 2nd serve	53%
226	Fastest serve (km/h)	216
196	1st srv avg (km/h)	181
167	2nd srv avg (km/h)	152
64	Winners	60
3	Return winners	2
41	Unforced errors	54
7	Return unforced errors	4
4-9	Break points won	0-2
15-19	Net points won	25-37
46-162	Receiving points won	34-158
171	Total points won	149
26	GroundStroke shots	27
0	Volley shots	2
0	Approach shots	1
1	Passing shots	0
3	Overhead shots	9

EARLY TUESDAY, QUARTERFINALS
#18Karen Khachanov vs. #29Sebastian Korda, late

WOMEN'S SINGLES, FOURTH ROUND
Magda Linette d. #4 Caroline Garcia, 7-6(3), 6-4.
#5Aryna Sabalenka d. #12 Belinda Bencic, 7-5, 6-2.
#30 Karolina Pliskova d. #23Zhang Shuai, 6-0, 6-4.
Donna Vekic d. Linda Fruhvirtova, 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.
EARLY TUESDAY, QUARTERFINALS
#22Elena Rybakina d. #17Jelena Ostapenko, 6-2, 6-4.

STAT OF THE DAY
29: Number of previous Grand Slam [illegible] Australian Open

ROAD TO AUSTRALIAN OPEN QUARTERFINALS

#3 STEFANOS TSITSIPAS
R1: Quentin Halys, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (8-6)
R2: Rinky Hijikata, 6-3, 6-0, 6-2
R3: Tallon Griekspoor, 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-3
R4: #15 Jannik Sinner, 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3
QF: vs. Jiri Lehecka

#4 NOVAK DJOKOVIC
R1: Roberto Carballes Baena, 6-3, 6-4, 6-0
R2: Enzo Couacaud, 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-0
R3: #27 Grigor Dimitrov, 7-6 (9-7), 6-3, 6-4
R4: #22 Alex De Minaur, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2
QF: vs. #5 Andrey Rublev

#5 ANDREY RUBLEV
R1: Dominic Thiem, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
R2: Emil Ruusuvuori, 6-2, 6-4, 6-7 (2-7), 6-3
R3: #25 Daniel Evans, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3
R4: #9 Holger Rune, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (11-9)
QF: vs. #4 Novak Djokovic

#18 KAREN KHACHANOV
R1: Bernabe Zapata Miralles, 7-6 (7-3), 6-2, 6-0
R2: Jason Kubler, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2
R3: #16 Frances Tiafoe, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (11-9)
R4: #31 Yoshihito Nishioka, 6-0, 6-0, 7-6 (4)
QF: vs. #29 Sebastian Korda

#29 SEBASTIAN KORDA
R1: Cristian Garin, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3, 6-2
R2: Yosuke Watanuki, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4
R3: #7 Daniil Medvedev, 7-6 (9-7), 6-3, 7-6 (4)
R4: #10 Hubert Hurkacz, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (10-7)
QF: vs. #18 Karen Khachanov

JIRI LEHECKA
R1: #21 Borna Coric, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3
R2: Christopher Eubanks, 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3
R3: #11 Cameron Norrie, 6-7 (8-10), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4
R4: #6 Felix Auger-Aliassime, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (3)
QF: vs. #3 Stefanos Tsitsipas

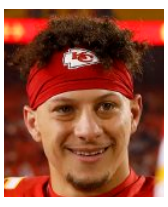
BEN SHELTON
R1: Zhizhen Zhang, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (4)
R2: Nicolas Jarry, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (3), 7-5
R3: Alexei Popyrin, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4
R4: JJ Wolf, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4), 6-2
QF: vs. Tommy Paul

TOMMY PAUL
R1: Jan-Lennard Struff, 6-1, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2
R2: #30 Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, 6-2, 2

NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Mahomes 'going to play' vs. Bengals



Chiefs coach Andy Reid said Monday that Patrick Mahomes will play in the AFC title game against the Bengals, and that the high ankle sprain the All-Pro quarterback sustained against the Jaguars last weekend is less severe than the one he played through during the 2019 season opener. "He's going to play," Reid told a group of local reporters. "That's his mindset." Mahomes was hurt in the first quarter of Saturday's win over the Jaguars when pass rusher Arden Key landed heavily on his right ankle. Mahomes finished the drive but was hobbling badly, and Reid and the training staff forced him to get an X-ray — it came back negative — and do some agility testing at halftime before allowing him back in the game. In the meantime, backup Chad Henne led the Chiefs on a 12-play, 98-yard TD drive in the 27-20 win. Mahomes played well in the second half, but the Chiefs altered their offense to account for his reduced mobility. Mahomes said afterward that his ankle felt better than expected and he vowed to play in the AFC title game. "Pain is pain," Mahomes said. "You're going to have to deal with it."

Djokovic's confidence gets big boost

It took about a week for Novak Djokovic to go from worrying about whether he simply could play a match at all on his injured left hamstring to thinking he can win the Australian Open. And one pain-free, nearly perfect performance in the fourth round Monday made a world of difference. "Tonight, the way I played, the way I felt, gives me reason now to believe that I can go all the way," Djokovic said after completely overwhelming 22nd-seeded Alex de Minaur 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 to reach the quarterfinals for the 13th time at Melbourne Park and 54th time at all Grand Slams. "I mean, I always believe I can go all the way, in terms of my tennis," continued Djokovic, whose 21 major championships include nine in Australia. "But the way my leg felt before tonight wasn't giving me too many hopes, so to say, for the entire tournament, to go all the way through. Tonight I feel that, so I feel positive about it." A year ago, he got kicked out of the country before the Australian Open because he wasn't vaccinated against COVID. He still hasn't gotten the shots, but the government's coronavirus rules have been relaxed.

Mbappé scores PSG-record 5 goals

Kylian Mbappé scored five goals, including a 12-minute hat trick in the first half, as Paris Saint-Germain won 7-0 at amateur team Pays de Cassel in the French Cup on Monday to set up a round-of-16 match at bitter rival Marseille. It was his first hat trick since France's World Cup final defeat to Argentina on Dec. 18. It took Mbappé's tally to 25 goals in 24 games this season and moved him onto 196 overall for PSG — four short of Edinson Cavani's club record. The 24-year-old Mbappé became the first PSG player to score five goals in a competitive match. "We came here to respect this team by playing at our level. That's what we did and we're very happy," Mbappé said. "It was a great opportunity for them and also for us, because it's a reminder for us that we come from amateur football and it's important to keep this link. Even if it's only for one game." PSG coach Christophe Galtier picked a strong side, with the World Cup top scorer Mbappé and Neymar in the lineup, although he rested Cup winner Lionel Messi for the game played at northern side Lens' home stadium. *—AP*

Safety Talanoa Hufanga pressures Cowboys QB Dak Prescott during the 49ers' divisional-round win Sunday. **TONY AVELAR/AP**

ON THE NFL PLAYOFFS

D for difference-maker

Defenses land knockout blows in divisional round

By Rob Maaddi
Associated Press

Defense stills wins in the playoffs.

The 49ers and Bengals advanced to the conference championship games with excellent defensive performances on Sunday.

The Eagles also had a standout defensive effort Saturday night.

While high-flying offenses led by star quarterbacks get most of the attention, defense matters.

It was evident in the NFL divisional round this weekend.

Chiefs defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo's aggressive unit forced two turnovers in the fourth quarter, helping the Chiefs beat the Jaguars 27-20 in the first game.

"We focused throughout the week, especially on the week we had off, focused on maybe punching the ball a little bit more or hop on the ball or just catching the ones that they give us," Chiefs linebacker Nick Bolton said. "I dropped one early, but it's one of those things you kind of have to keep going on, and in playoffs, you understand that they count times two when you get them."

Jalen Hurts and the Eagles offense were unstoppable, especially dominating the Giants on the ground with 268 yards rushing. But the Eagles defense, which was No. 2 in the league this season, was downright nasty in a 38-7 rout.

Coming off an impressive 301-yard passing game in an upset over the 13-win Vikings, Daniel Jones had no chance against Haason Reddick and the Eagles' ferocious defense.

Jones was sacked five times, threw a pick, completed just 55.6% of his passes and looked lost. The Eagles held the Giants to only 227 total yards.

"Jonathan Gannon puts these guys in great positions," Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said of his defensive coordinator. "Obviously, we have great players. ... But this guy is an unbelievable coordinator. ... He's going to be a head football coach in the National Football League because of what he does. This guy is a stud. He's a stud."

The Bengals defense had the most impressive all-around game of all, considering its opponent. The Bengals shut down Josh Allen and the Bills' dynamic offense in a 27-10 win. The Bills were only 4-for-12 on third downs, went three-and-out three times and managed just a field goal in the second half.

Defensive coordinator Lou Anarumo put the Bengals in position to constantly pressure Allen and knock him out of rhythm. Allen had only one turnover late in the game, but he misfired on some throws and didn't click with his receivers. Allen kept his head down and didn't look up when wide receiver Stefon Diggs approached him on the bench and yelled a few times in his direction midway through the fourth quarter.

"He wants the ball," Allen said of Diggs, who had just four receptions for 35 yards. "And whatever it was that we couldn't get him the ball tonight, we're going to have to learn from."

Championship round

SUNDAY
49ers at Eagles, 3 p.m. EST, Fox
Bengals at Chiefs, 6:30 p.m., CBS

The Bengals will meet the Chiefs again in a rematch of last year's AFC championship game that was won by the Bengals. Burrow is 3-0 against Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs.

In the final game of the weekend, the 49ers' top-ranked defense flustered Dak Prescott throughout a 19-12 victory, forcing two interceptions and holding the Cowboys to just 282 total yards. The 49ers had a few more opportunities at turnovers but couldn't hang on to a couple of picks.

49ers defensive coordinator DeMeco Ryans, a candidate for several head coaching vacancies, improved his case with another stellar game plan.

"I'm pretty sure DeMeco is gonna have a head coaching job after this year," 49ers defensive back Jimmie Ward said. "You see it with the play calling. We went out there and shut down a playoff team and one of the best teams in the league this year."

Next up for the 49ers is a trip to Philadelphia to face one of the league's most well-rounded offenses in the NFC championship game.

"Get ya popcorn ready, man," Ward said. "Heavyweight fight right there. Get ready. It's gonna be a good show."

AUTO RACING

Lure of Le Mans strong for Penske

By Jenna Fryer | Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Roger Penske believes in goals, even when his to-do list is pretty well covered.

The one hole in the Team Penske trophy case can only be filled by the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Winning the most prestigious sports car race in the world is on Penske's bucket list as his 86th birthday draws near.

Last year was pretty big year for "The Captain" as it opened with Austin Cindric's victory in the Daytona 500 on Penske's 85th birthday. Will Power won the IndyCar title and Joey Logano the NASCAR Cup Series title to mark the first time Team Penske won the top two North American racing series in the same season.

Team Penske owner Roger Penske, who turns 86 next month, will look to add to his impressive trophy case this summer at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France. "This is his biggest dream right now," driver Felipe Nasr said. **AP FILE**

The lure of Le Mans brought Penske back to sports car racing under revamped IMSA regulations that have created a top GTP class of cars featuring hybrid engines that will be eligible to compete at Le Mans in June.

IMSA will be the first North American series to compete with hybrid technology and the advancement has drawn the top names in the business to the series.

Acura, BMW, Cadillac and Porsche have made for a nine-car class this weekend in the Rolex 24 at Daytona, the unofficial opener to the motorsports season and the first true reliability test for these new hybrid engines.

The technology is too enticing to avoid, and just this month Michael Andretti partnered with Wayne Taylor Racing on an Acura program that might get Andretti a shot at entering a team at Le Mans. BMW jumped up to the top class with Bobby Rahal, who had been content running his cars in a lower class but was swayed to move by the importance of the project.

That's what brought Penske back after previously shuttering his IMSA sports car program following three seasons and the 2021 championship. Penske pulled out because the class was going to soon be obsolete as it transitioned to hybrid and IMSA made its push to become part of the Le Mans field.

He wanted in, early, on what was brewing to ensure it was a "Penske Perfect" effort this weekend at Daytona International Speedway. Penske himself raced the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1963, and in 1971 entered a Ferrari for Mark Donohue and David Hobbs.

Both cars failed to finish the race and Penske did not return to Le Mans until last year, when Team Penske and partner Porsche entered a car that finished fifth in class. It was a test of all the work Penske and Porsche had been doing in two-plus years of program building.

Porsche and Penske have a storied history that began nearly five decades ago in the Can-Am series with back-to-back championships in the Porsche 917/10 for drivers George Follmer and Donohue.

Porsche and Penske paired up again to win three consecutive IMSA titles in the Le Mans Prototype 2 class from 2006 through 2008.

The task now is to qualify the Porsche Penske entries for Le Mans and give Penske the opportunity to win the one race that has escaped his grasp.

"We all need goals and I've been very fortunate over the years racing with our teams to win championships, great wins," Penske said. "There's always that one you want. I think that's one of the things that Le Mans would mean to us as a team. Certainly for me personally. It's a goal that we want to achieve."

Felipe Nasr qualified Penske's No. 7 Porsche 963 second for the start of Saturday's race while a mistake by Nick Tandy on his attempt to win the pole led to the No. 6 crashing during qualifying.

Nasr, who left his championship-winning team after the 2021 title for a chance to drive for Penske, has spent the better part of the last year helping to develop the Porsche and launch the program.

With that comes getting to know one of the most respected figures in motorsports.

"I become more of a fan of Roger every time I get the chance to speak to him," Nasr said. "I can tell you how excited he is about this program.

"That's what he talks about night and day, sometimes we get phone calls at midnight, or early morning, and he wants to know everything. He's here, he's at the track and it's pretty unique to see someone putting in so much dedication and energy."

With it comes pressure to deliver this summer in France for his new boss.

"That's his biggest dream right now, I think it's what he wants more than anything," Nasr said. "So everything from now until then, it needs to be done right. Because when it comes to Le Mans, it is too important to him. That alone has been a great motivator to the entire staff, the mechanics, the engineers, everyone. Roger is not joking around about this."